

WHO warns gov'ts of biological attacks

STORY
IN THE WORLD,
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"RAGING Bulls" over the carrier USS Enterprise

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2001 ★ 68 PAGES 5 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 290 P15

Queen
finally goes
hi-tech

GUESS who has recently gone hi-tech? Britain's Queen Elizabeth II, no less. According to the British tabloid The Sun, the Queen has gotten her first cell

QUEEN/A19



Belgium detains 30 Pinoys

RP immigrant group says 'it's open season for people of color'

THIRTY Filipinos, including mothers and their children, were rounded up by police in dawn raids last week in Brussels, Belgium, and detained and interrogated for 8-12 hours in what, according to Migrante International, appeared to be "open season for Filipinos and other people of color."

In a statement issued yesterday, Migrante International chair Leo Legaspi said there had been a rise in anti-immigrant sentiment and harassment in North America and Europe since US President George W. Bush launched his "infinite war of justice" against Afghanistan and other countries suspected of harboring terrorists.

The harassment has also victimized the likes of Filipino film director Joel Lamangan, who was strip-searched and detained for more than an hour by immigration authorities at an airport in Toronto, Canada, according to Pinoy Times columnist Jose F. Lacaba.

Legaspi quoted reports from Migrante members in Brussels saying that police raided around 19 Filipino homes between 5 and 6 a.m. on Sept. 20.

He said the 30 Filipinos were rounded up and taken to the police station, where they were interrogated on how they arrived in Belgium and who took them there, their means of livelihood, and where they found the money to buy a house.

In certain cases, Legaspi said, the raids included sifting through papers and confiscating cellular phones, address books and telephone directories.

He said the Filipinos were kept in separate rooms without food or water until 2 p.m., when they were given sandwiches and tap water.

Two Filipino women who were among those detained were brought to the airport late in the morning of Sept. 21 for a 1 p.m. flight to Manila, he said, adding that their identities were not immediately known.

A partial list provided by Migrante named the following as among those detained for at least

BELGIUM/A20

Rosebud, Acop ready evidence

BY NORMAN BORDADORA,
CHRISTINE HERRERA
AND ARMAND NOCUM

EXPECT more fireworks and more tears.

Ex-civilian police agent Mary "Rosebud" Ong told congressmen yesterday she would finally present evidence directly linking Sen. Panfilo Lacson to drug trafficking and kidnapping for ransom when the Senate joint committee hearings resume this afternoon.

ROSEBUD/A19



LACSON: It's Perez's own account.



A LAND of extremes with the craggy, bleak landscape, Afghanistan has extremely cold winters (above) and sizzling summers (below). (At right) Afghan and his eight children who live in a mud house have been refugees in the outskirts of Peshawar, Pakistan since the Soviets invaded Afghanistan in 1979. A fresh exodus of Afghan refugees is now streaming into Pakistan as the United States has targeted their homeland as the hideout of prime suspect, Osama bin Laden.

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE



Saudis cut ties with Taliban gov't

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates—Saudi Arabia on Tuesday broke off diplomatic ties with the Taliban government, bolstering US efforts to isolate Afghanistan's leaders over their refusal to hand over Osama Bin Laden.

Undeterred, Bin Laden's terrorist organization made a fresh call to arms as US President George W. Bush prepared to lay out his war

plans for congressional leaders.

While solidifying international support for a long, open-ended hunt for terrorists, Bush is deploying American forces around the world in the biggest US mobilization since the 1991 Gulf War.

Without identifying Bin Laden by name, the Saudi government accused the Taliban religious militia

of continuing "to use their land to harbor, arm and encourage those criminals who carry out terrorist attacks which frighten the innocent and spread horror and destruction in the world."

The Sept. 11 attacks in New York and Washington "defame Islam and defame Muslims' reputation in the world," the government said in a state-

ment carried on the official Saudi news agency.

The move by Saudi Arabia, one of the most influential nations in the Islamic world, leaves Pakistan as the only country maintaining diplomatic relations with the Taliban.

Bin Laden, a Saudi dissident and No. 1 US suspect in the terror attacks, lives in exile in Afghanistan

SAUDIS/A20

BUSH ORDER

Abu on US freeze list

WASHINGTON—The Abu Sayyaf, a Moro bandit and terrorist group in the Philippines, was on the list of 27 organizations and individuals whose assets have been ordered frozen by President George W. Bush.

Atop the list is the al-Qaida network led by Osama bin Laden, prime suspect in the attacks on New York and Washington that have left nearly 7,000 dead.

In an executive order he issued Monday, Bush warned institutions abroad that their US

assets might be frozen if they do not block funds held by the individuals and organizations.

"It puts the financial world on notice: If you do business with terrorists, if you support or sponsor them, you will not do business with the United States of America," Bush said at the White House, flanked by US Secretary of State Colin Powell and US Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill.

Bush noted that the measure sought to enlist

ABU/A20

Freeze order not enforceable in RP...

BY RAUL J. PALABRICA

THE EXECUTIVE order issued by US President George W. Bush to freeze the bank accounts of suspected terrorist groups is enforceable only within US territory. Not in this country.

The US government can request, not order, the Philippine government to cooperate or take such steps that may be necessary to immobilize the suspect funds.

But if the funds of the Abu Sayyaf are deposited

FREEZE/A20

US TV limits use of images of destruction

BESIDES its horror, television news producers are concerned that the repeated play of the images of destruction on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon will numb viewers.

The three major US broadcast networks—ABC, NBC and CBS—have cautioned their staff on using the footage, but have not banned it.

Cable news networks began pulling back from the images the weekend after the attacks on the United States.

MSNBC, Fox and CNN issued orders to producers to use the images only if absolutely necessary for the story.

"We will only use the videos if it is essential to the story," said ABC News spokesperson Su-Lyn Nicols.

"We didn't want to keep playing the footage of the plane collisions and such over and over again," said Andrew Finlayson, news director for KTVU, a local San Francisco station.

US/A20

COUNTERSTRIKE

Ping: Nani has \$20M hoard

BY ARMAND N. NOCUM
AND CATHY C. YAMSUAN

SEN. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson yesterday accused Justice Secretary Hernando Perez of keeping millions of dollars supposedly acquired through extortion in a bank account in Hong Kong.

Lacson made the accusation after anonymous text messages cir-

culated saying that Perez would be kinder to him now that he had the goods on the justice secretary regarding the controversial deal involving the Argentine-based firm Industrias Metalurgicas Pescarmona SA (Impsa).

Asked earlier in the day for comment to the text messages, a visibly annoyed Perez said he "cannot be blackmailed by anyone."

"No, I'm not going to be nice to (Lacson)," he told reporters.

The evening news program "TV Patrol" later aired what appeared to be a portion of a radio interview with Perez wherein he denied Lacson's accusation.

Speaking with reporters before the Senate started its regular session yesterday afternoon, Lacson

PING/A19

'Surprise witness' is ex-PDI man

BY FE ZAMORA
INQ7 Section Editor

A FORMER INQUIRER correspondent will testify as an "independent witness" when the joint committee hearings investigating accusations against Sen. Panfilo Lacson resume at the Senate today.

A source at the Senate disclosed

SURPRISE/A19

Second FRONT PAGE



'Croc' joke not funny-Ping

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By A. N. NOCUM

SEN. Panfilo Lacson has taken offense at jokes drawing parallels between him and the crocodile that is said to have wandered into a creek at Camp Crame, the headquarters of the Philippine National Police.

Lacson said he "never acted as an alligator."
"As PNP chief, I never skimmed government resources," he said.
Taking the offensive, Lacson claimed to have heard reports that the expenses of his successor at the PNP chief's office had gone

up by 15 percent.
"During my time, there was no alligator there, I never pocketed money from the PNP," he said. "I never stole a single centavo there."
He said he was careful to instruct the suppliers of guns, ammunition and other paraphernalia "not to give rebates, not to give commissions to anybody."

He said that during his watch, he did not see a single "lizard" in his quarters, which is known as the "White House."
He said the crocodile may have crossed over from Fort Bonifacio, specifically from the office of intelligence chief Victor Corpus who has accused Lacson of money laundering and other crimes.
An underground creek is said to connect the two camps.

Laundering bill just might beat deadline

By DORIS C. DUMLAO
CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO
AND VOLT CONTRERAS

RACING against a Sept. 30 deadline after which international financial sanctions against the country will kick in, congressional leaders yesterday said both chambers of Congress were working double time to approve a crucial money-laundering measure by Friday.
Speaker Jose de Venecia said a bicameral confer-

ence committee would be able to approve the bill and send it for President Macapagal-Arroyo to sign during the weekend, beating the Sept. 30 deadline set by the Paris-based Financial Action Task Force.
"The FATF was not willing to extend the deadline, not even for a day, so we have to do our homework," De Venecia said.

Senate President Franklin Drilon said yesterday the Senate might be able to finish its version by last night or today "if things go well."
Senate caucus
Following a caucus of 16 senators from the majority and minority coalitions, Drilon said the Senate would come up with a simpler version of the bill that would eliminate the unnecessary provisions in the Senate committee report being debated now.
"To save time and to be more efficient, the committee will submit a substitute bill and the period of interpolation and amendment will be combined," Drilon said.

The FATF, backed by most industrialized nations, has set Sept. 30 as the deadline for the Philippines to take legislative action to combat money laundering or face sanctions that could include warnings to potential investors and tightening of banking procedures.

The Congress has been working from a draft bill submitted by a multi-agency group created by the administration that seeks to ease certain restrictions set by the country's Bank Secrecy Law.

The bill proposes to relax some provisions that prevent the government from clamping down on the recycling of profits from illegal arms sales, smuggling, drug trafficking, embezzlement, insider trading, bribery, computer fraud and other illegal activities.

Bank secrecy

It also proposes new legal grounds for subjecting bank deposits to investigation.

At the House, which has already approved a consolidated version of several proposed bills at the committee level, the only remaining issue to be threshed out was whether or not a court order would be needed to waive bank secrecy rules, the Speaker said.

Existing rules require the issuance of a court order to probe into a particular bank account.
Rep. Oscar Moreno, chair of the committee on economic affairs, said the House version ensures that the money-laundering law cannot be used for harassing politicians and legitimate businessmen.

He said the bill's passage was being stalled by "misplaced apprehensions" over the measure's being open to abuse.

Drilon said the substitute bill, like the Senate committee report, calls for the criminalization of money laundering.

It covers the crimes of drug trafficking, kidnapping, graft and plunder, whittling down the list of 17 offenses identified by the committee report.

Unusual transaction

In the substitute version, banks would be required to report "unusually large or complex transactions" to a Financial Intelligence Unit to be created by the central bank.

The amount of these unusually large transactions, initially proposed for P1 million or higher, will be set during floor debates.

The Senate version also requires the Monetary Board, before it can freeze a suspect bank account, to subpoena the depositor concerned and go to court for authority to open and examine the account.

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay, chair of the Senate committee on banks, said the Senate would be working closely with De Venecia to ensure that its version would be easily reconciled with that of the House.

Comelec execs told to put their act together

By CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO

THE CHAIR of the Senate committee on elections yesterday urged Commission on Elections chair Alfredo Benipayo to resolve the feuding among the Comelec commissioners as this could jeopardize efforts to modernize the poll body.

Sen. Edgardo Angara, who chairs the Senate committee on constitutional amendments and revisions of codes and laws, said Benipayo should find some way to get the commissioners to work in a collegial way.
"It would really be a disservice to the public if this bickering continues, (and) then we have to kiss our election modernization goodbye," Angara told reporters after a Senate inquiry into the alleged fraud in the May elections and the Comelec's modernization program.

The tension between the feuding camps of Benipayo and Commissioner Lourdes Tancanco was palpable at yesterday's hearing.

The feuding at the Comelec will be taken up in the next hearing on Thursday.

Guillermo Luz, executive director of the National Movement for Free Elections, also expressed concern over the goings-on at the Comelec. He said at the hearing that not much work had been done in the poll body since the start of the year.

Luz said that of 62 meetings held by the Comelec en banc from January to August this year, 25 did not push through because of the lack of a quorum.

He said four commissioners, led by Tancanco, often did not show up for meetings during that period. Tancanco had 37 absences; Commissioners Mehol Sadain (43), Ralph Lantion (42) and Rufino Javier (41).

"So we can establish that from January to August this year, there were far too many absences and we're very concerned about this," Luz told the Senate hearing.

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Courts, PCGG cleared JdV, says Landoil exec

SPEAKER Jose de Venecia has been cleared separately and with finality and all cases against him have been dismissed by the Sandiganbayan, the Ombudsman, the Supreme Court and even three separate boards of the Presidential Commission on Good Government from 1987 to 1994.

This was the clarification issued yesterday by Ambrosio Collado, spokesperson of Landoil. He was reacting to reports that the PCGG was planning to refile cases against several alleged cronies of the late President Ferdinand Marcos because they have failed to do their part of the bargain in compromise agreements with the government.

In a press release, Collado also said De Venecia, as a private citizen, resigned from Landoil in 1985 and did not personally enter into any compromise agreement with the PCGG.

The PCGG, and Sandiganbayan, the Ombudsman and the Supreme Court acknowledged that De Venecia and Landoil were not cronies of Marcos "but victims of Marcos cronies" and did not engage in any "behest loans," he added.

It was the PCGG and Landoil that entered into an agreement in 1988 after the PCGG acknowledged, after more than two years of inquiry, that Landoil was not a crony company but a victim of Marcos cronies and did not acquire behest loans, Collado said.

He said Landoil has filed a collection case of \$75 million and other claims and variation orders of \$100 million with the Geneva-based United Nations Compensation Commission (UNCC).

He said the proceeds will be turned over to the PCGG when successful.

Collado said Landoil group suffered during the almost 10-year Iran-Iraq war and by the subsequent Gulf War of 1990. He said more than \$50 million worth of Landoil's construction and transport equipment were stranded in the Iraqi desert and Landoil had to evacuate, at its own expense, more than 2,000 workers.

Commission on Elections

Continuing registration of voters on-going in the Office of City/ Municipal Election offices Monday-Friday, 8 A.M.-5 P.M.

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Gloria woos Iglesia anew

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday dropped in on a workshop conducted by the Iglesia ni Cristo for its members on the occasion of "Family Week 2001" to touch base once more with an institution that had supported deposed President Joseph Estrada.

In a speech delivered at the INC Tabernacle in Quezon City, the President praised Erano Manalo, the head of the church, saying he was the "spiritual adviser" of millions of Filipinos.

She disclosed that she had been talking with Manalo almost every month, seeking his advice. She also thanked members of the church for supporting her bid to become senator, then vice president.

Members of the INC had participated in the so-called EDSA 3 uprising which sought and failed to oust the newly installed Ms Macapagal from Malacañang. Martin P. Marfil

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CLARK FIELD, Pampanga—The military has deployed plainclothes intelligence operatives in surrounding communities of this former United States military base as preparation for the use of the airport here by American aircraft taking part in the war against global terrorism.

Col. Charles Hotchkiss, deputy commander of the 600th Air Base Wing here, was, however, quick to say that there is no threat of terrorism at present here.

He said the deployment of intelligence operatives from the Philippine Air Force within and outside of this special economic zone is only a "precautionary measure" to prevent any terrorist attack.

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes reiterated Tuesday that Malacañang had given the Americans its blessing to use the airports and seaports in Clark, Subic, and Mactan in Cebu as refueling and support facilities in the US' impending strike against terrorists.

Hotchkiss said Lt. Gen. Benjamin Defensor, PAF commanding general, had already ordered

PAF units here to prepare to provide support to the American military forces.

He said two private corporations here, Lubwell and Coastal Petroleum, are prepared to provide aviation gas to American aircraft.

The Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority has also disclosed that the recently rehabilitated 40-kilometer long Clark-Subic pipeline is now ready to be used.

The PAF has been occupying 313 hectares of land here, including the southern ramp of the Clark International Airport. **Jun Malign, PDI Central Luzon Desk**

Naia security chief says he feels vindicated

BY DONA PAZZIBUGAN

THE COUNTRY'S airport security chief said he felt vindicated by recent events against past accusation that he "harassed" the former first lady, Sen. Loi Ejercito, and her son, former Mayor Jinggoy Estrada, when he subjected them to a security check at a domestic airport.

Marcelo Elle, head of the PNP Aviation Security Group, said they now have the authority to subject passengers of chartered flights to a similar inspection for passengers of commercial flights.

The order, issued last week by Air Transportation Office chief Adelberto Yap, was part of the stricter airport security measures undertaken since the Sept. 11 hijacking of four US domestic flights.

"Before the attacks, we were already considering that chartered planes will be used to transport fugitives or contraband goods. But we were accused of harassing the son of the (former) President (Joseph Estrada)," Elle said in a news forum yesterday.

Elle was hailed to a Senate investigation at the height of the senatorial campaign last April after Jinggoy complained that he and his mother were frisked and their baggage inspected by bomb-sniffing dogs before they boarded a private plane.

During the Senate hearing, pro-Estrada senators led by former Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile and Sen. Tito Sotto accused Elle of harassing the Estradas.

Asked yesterday if he felt vindicated, Elle replied, "Yes."

"I was just doing my job," he said later.

In the same forum at the Westin Philippine Plaza, Elle disclosed that they will soon designate "secret air marshals" aboard planes as part of additional measures meant to prevent hijacking.

"I won't tell you when our air marshals (program will take effect). But I have air marshals ready to go on board," he said.

Elle, however, said he is not in favor of arming pilots, saying pilots are not trained to do combat.

He said the air marshal program is the "last line of defense" against terrorists, since they have heightened security checks for passengers before boarding the plane.

He said all passengers, including diplomats, will undergo body search before and after going through the metal detector.

He also disclosed that Philippine Airlines will install security measures inside the plane, such as putting additional locks and bullet-proof doors for the cockpit to prevent hijackers from getting to the pilots.

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MESSAGES

I would like to convey my sincerest felicitations to the men and women of the National Committee on Urban Pest Control (NCUPC) as they celebrate the Fifth Urban Pest Control Week.

I would like to commend the NCUPC for consistently taking the lead role in this annual celebration. This event serves as an opportune time to renew our commitment in providing our people with a clean and healthy environment. As many of our people continue to succumb to diseases brought about by pests, I hope the holding of the Fifth Urban Pest Control Week will serve as an urgent reminder for the NCUPC and other stakeholders to engage themselves in providing preventive health care to find more permanent and institutionalized solutions to recurring pest-related health problems plaguing our people. With the theme, "Adopting Modern, Indigenous, and Proven Technologies To The Current Waste And Pest Problems In Metro Manila And Throughout The Provinces Towards Sustainable Development," this event promises to make great headway in the attainment of these worthy goals. Let us join hands in providing our countrymen with improved quality health services to make them active and productive members of society.

I wish this event every possible success and urge your members to contribute to our goal of producing healthier and more productive Filipinos.

Mabuhay!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

I congratulate the National Committee on Urban Pest Control (NCUPC) as you celebrate the 5th Urban Pest Control Week which is attuned not only to work out new solutions but also firm up previous efforts to address our garbage dilemma.

The Department of Environment & Natural Resources (DENR) knows well how you have significantly contributed in your ecological and social awareness projects and programs such as "Adopting Modern, Indigenous, And Proven Technologies To The Current Waste And Pest Problems In Metro Manila And Throughout The Provinces Towards Sustainable Development."

May this occasion strengthen even more our joint resolve to give what the present and future generations deserve—a healthy and well-balanced environment.

To all members of the NCUPC: this commitment is ours to carry on.

Mabuhay kayo!

HEHERSON T. ALVAREZ
Secretary
DENR

Let's Go Green!

My sincerest best wishes to the men and women of the National Committee on Urban Pest Control (NCUPC) on the occasion of their 5th Urban Pest Control Week celebration with a conference title: "Modern, Indigenous And Proven Solutions For The Waste And Pest Problems" on September 26, 2001.

I laud your group for promoting ecological awareness and concern amongst the Filipino people and for everyone to care for our environment. Indeed, noble endeavor merits our commendation and support.

Your theme: "Adopting Modern, Indigenous, And Proven Technologies To The Waste And Pest Problems In Metro Manila And Throughout The Provinces Towards Sustainable Development," speaks well of your sincere dedication to save Mother Earth from environmental degradation through the use of indigenous technologies to eradicate wastes and pest problems. Truly, we can strike balance in our ecological predicament.

With concerted actions, with all local government units and non-governmental organizations, we could easily attain a cleaner metropolis. Let us pool our resources and energies together to achieve our common vision of a progressive Metro Manila.

Mabuhay!

LITO ATIENZA
City Mayor
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Naia 3 billed as showcase of BOT scheme

THE SOON-TO-OPEN Terminal 3 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport will be "a magnet for business and investment" and an important showcase of the Build-Operate-Transfer scheme pioneered by the Philippine government.

This is according to Johannes Endler, executive director for finance retail of the German firm that owns a 30-percent share of the consortium that is financing, planning, building and operating the terminal.

The German firm, FRAPort AG, is the company that owns and operates one of the world's best airport, Frankfurt Airport, and holds a direct 30-percent share in Philippine International Air Terminals Co. Inc. (Piatco), the Naia 3 builder.

Endler, in a press statement, said the success of the Naia terminal 3 project would translate into more foreign investments in the country as well as active participation of the private sector in the government's infrastructure program.

"It will be the primary international gateway to the Philippines and a magnet for business and investment in the future," he added.

The new terminal, to be opened at the end of 2002, will represent the success of the country's Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) scheme under the BOT law. The law (RA 7718) was designed to attract the private sector into participating in the national government's infrastructure development program.

Noel Kintanar, executive director of the Coordinating Council for Private Sector Participation, an agency under the Office of the President, said the success of any project under the BOT scheme, which the country pioneered, would definitely translate into more investments from foreign as well as local investors.

"We should be proud of the BOT Law. It is being copied by other governments because it is recognized as a strong policy in attracting investors," Kintanar said.

The government, in its Medium-Term Development Plan for the period 1999-2004, needs around P1.2 trillion for its infrastructure development program. The national government plans to tap 40 percent of this amount from the private sector through the BOT scheme.

Currently, private sector participation in the government's infrastructure programs has reached only a total of \$26.3 million for publicly bid and unsolicited projects, statistics from the CCPSP showed.

Another Pinay missing in NY

ANOTHER Filipino was confirmed missing from the Sept. 11 terrorist attack on the World Trade Center in New York, bringing the total to 19, according to the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Cecile M. Caguicla was reported missing by her sister two weeks since the attack, the Philippine consulate in New York said in its report to the DFA yesterday. Caguicla reportedly worked for Marsh-McLenan located at the 98th floor of the WTC.

The consulate has so far confirmed that two Filipinos died while 19 are missing due to the attack.

DFA spokesperson Victoriano Lecaros said the consulate based its official figure from reports they received from relatives and from the information received from the Family Assistance Center under the Office of the New York City Mayor.

He said the consulate would not want to speculate on a higher casualty figure without confirming the information.

The two Filipino-American casualties were identified as Ruben Ornedo and Romeo Gamboa, who were onboard the hijacked American Airlines and United Airlines flights that crashed into the WTC and the Pentagon in Washington D.C.

Those earlier reported missing were Cesar Alviar, Marilyn Bautista, Grace Alegre Cua, Jay Ciril Dichavez, Benilda Domingo, Judy Fernandez, Bernardo Gallardo, Ramon Grihalvo, Frederick Kuo, Jr., Arnold Lim, Manuel Lopez, Carl Allen Peralta, Rufino Flores Santos, Maritess Santillan, David N. Sullins, Larry Sumaya, Hector Tamayo and Cynthia Motus-Wilson (who was earlier reported as Cynthia Betita).

Graft raps filed against PUP head

BY ELINE SANTOS

TOP officials of the Polytechnic University of the Philippines, including its president Dr. Ofelia M. Carague, have been slapped with a P46-million graft case at the Ombudsman for alleged irregularities in the implementation of various infrastructure projects in the state-owned university.

The complaint against Carague, who is the wife of Commission on Audit chair Guillermo Carague, was filed by Dr. Zenaida Pia, president of the PUP Federated Faculty Associations and a member of the Board of Regents.

Pia alleged that various infrastructure projects implemented from 1999 to 2000, under Carague's administration, were made without the supervision, assistance and knowledge of the Department of Public Works and Highways.

The projects were bid out and implemented by a Special Projects Office (SPO) under engineer Alberto Cañete, in violation of the General Appropriations Act which requires that such projects be done with the assistance of and under the supervision of the DPWH, the complaint said.

The SPO under Cañete in effect "usurped the functions of the DPWH and acted as (the) DPWH himself," said Pia.

She claimed that Cañete's staff, which was allegedly composed of undergraduates and inexperienced new graduates, was given the responsibility for implementing the infrastructure projects since 1999.

Unfinished projects

Carague has not denied that the SPO had taken care of the infrastructure projects but she claimed that her administration was only completing projects begun in preceding administrations.

In a phone interview, Carague said that there were 38 unfinished projects when she took over, citing as an example the food and technology building.

The building was among the projects for 1999 listed in Pia's complaint. The others were the Mass Communication Theater, the construction of a gymnasium/classroom, repair of the Technical School Building and the Main Building.

The 2000 projects included the major repair of the building and sewerage system, completion of the information technology center, completion of a gymnasium in PUP-Ragay, construction of a building in the Payatas/Commonwealth campus, and the construction of the PUP Sports Complex in Manila.

These projects had a budget of P46 million.

Included in the graft complaint, filed last Sept. 18, were: Dr. Carmela Perez, vice president for finance who chairs the pre-qualification, bidding and award committee-infrastructure; Cañete, SPO director and vice chair of the PBAC-infrastructure; lawyer Francisco S.B. Acejas, executive secretary; engineer Vicky S. Cruz and architect Gloria B. Teodoro, both PBAC members.

'Illegal entity'

Aside from allegedly usurping the DPWH's functions, the SPO was in itself an illegal entity as it had been set up in an unauthorized reorganization implemented by Carague, Pia said.

In a separate complaint filed on Sept. 12, Pia alleged that Carague also committed acts of omission, which constituted technical malversation of funds amounting to millions of pesos.

Carague allegedly overhauled the PUP's organizational structure, filling up the new positions with officials and employees "of her own personal choice," without the approval of the Department of Budget and Management.

Two pages from the 1999 COA report that Carague faxed to the INQUIRER stated the PUP management's justification for the restructuring.

"The present organizational plan has been instrumental in the fast implementation of the programs like quality education," it said.

Carague pointed out that the PUP was recognized in 2000 as a "Center of Development for Excellence in Information and Technology" by the Commission on Higher Education, and as a "Virtual Center for Technology Innovation in IT" by the Department of Science and Technology.

These distinctions were due in part to the new organizational structure, she said.

Another justification cited for the reorganization was the size of the university.

Group backs new import checks deal

A CONSUMER group yesterday threw its support behind the plan of the Department of Finance to bid out anew the pre-shipment inspection contract for imports to curb smuggling in the country.

Jose T. Marchan, president of the Tinig ng Mamimiling Pilipino (TIMPI), said the revival of a new pre-shipment contract is important to the private sector and importers because it will free the importers of precious time and money brought about by the storage or warehousing fees and other expenses incurred in the delay of their shipments.

This would in turn benefit the consumers because it would lessen the prices of goods in the market brought about by the efficient inspection system for the imported goods, Marchan added.

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Time To Reflect

(Global Competitiveness Part IX)

The terror attacks on America have made us realize how vulnerable countries can be no matter how powerful they are, and how mortal we all are.

This tragedy gives us a chance to reflect on things and values that really count. Those that count are many. Like our moral values. Our spirit of togetherness and "bayanihan". Our ability and flexibility to adjust to a drastically changed environment.

The threat of a recession in the United States has become real. This, in turn, will trigger recession in many other countries. As global recession takes its toll, the world will have excess production capacity and exports will slow down.

This crisis is beyond economics. It impacts not only business and industry but the well being of every Filipino. But we have survived worse ones before. There is no reason for us not to surpass this crisis, the worst one since World War II.

It is time for serious reflection. Time to set aside greed, materialism, divisiveness. Tragedy and crisis have a way of changing one's perspective. Business decisions need not be motivated solely by profit. Nor materialism be the sole reason for our existence. **There must be a moratorium on things that divide us. We must focus on things that unite us.**

While we are one with the rest of the world in the war against terrorism, what unites us most at this moment in time is our survival in the midst of a world recession.

During these critical times, we must turn to the domestic economy to make up for the slack in foreign investments and the sharp cuts in exports. Now is the time for everyone to rally behind the country and the economy. **Buying local is not just simply an act of nationalism. It is an act of survival.**

As the President urged in her State of the Nation Address (SONA), **"we have to Think Filipino, Buy Filipino, Invest Filipino"**. That call has never been more urgent than now.

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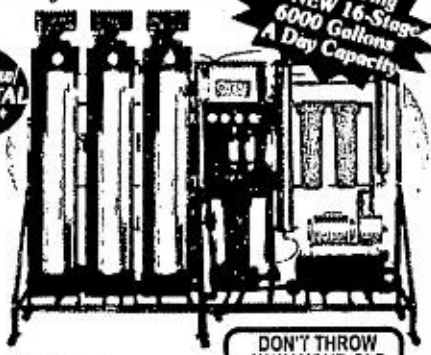
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BALANGIGA MASSACRE TROPHIES**Bells still a thorn in RP-US ties**

CHEYENNE, Wyoming—A hundred years has not calmed the patriotic tension between the United States and the Philippines over the Bells of Balangiga.

Many American veterans say the bronze church bells on the grounds of F.E. Warren Air Force Base here memorialize 46 soldiers who were massacred by Filipino insurgents on Sept. 28, 1901.

Filipinos see the two bells as symbols of the beginning of the end of a centuries-long pursuit of independence.

With the centennial of the massacre on Friday, the Philippines' request to return the war trophies remains a touchy diplomatic issue between nations that otherwise are friends.

Officials at the air base say it is a matter only Congress can resolve.

But with the world shaken by the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, and the United States embarking on a war against terrorism, a resolution anytime soon seems more unlikely than ever.

Former President Fidel Ramos recalled trying to work out an answer with President Bill Clinton in 1998.

Win-win formula

"The win-win formula I suggested is not for one bell to be sent here and one bell to be retained in Wyoming. I said, we will cut the bells in half. You keep two halves and you send back to us two halves and then we rebuild them as best as we can. And then we end up with two pairs that are almost identical to the original," Ramos recalled.

He said Clinton liked the idea, but no action was taken. And plenty of veterans in Wyoming are opposed.

"Folks that are of the feel-good, do-good, wouldn't-it-be-nice-type think that we should give a lot of these things back," said retired Col. Dave McCracken, who was commander of F.E. Warren in the early 1980s.

"That's not how a conservative military guy thinks."

The United States acquired the Philippines after the Spanish-American War. When that did not mean independence after 377 years as a Spanish colony, Filipino Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo turned against his American allies.

Resistance continued despite Aguinaldo's capture on March 25, 1901.

That summer, American troops were sent to tiny Balangiga on the backwater southern coast of Samar. After several uneventful weeks the scene was set for an episode that would be unparalleled in the Philippine-American War, according to Brian McAllister Linn, a Texas A&M University history professor who has spent 20 years researching the war.

Attack on Company C

On the night of Sept. 27, several women carrying small coffins were seen hurrying to the village church and were stopped. A sergeant looked inside one coffin and was told the child inside had died of cholera.

He let them pass without noticing that the coffin also contained bolos—large knives—and that the women were not really women.

Four days after the attack, a report by 9th Infantry Capt. Edwin V. Bookmiller fingered local Chief of Police Pedro Sanchez as the instigator of the assault at 6:20 a.m. Sept. 28.

"As the Sentinel passed him, he seized the Sentinel's rifle, gave a loud call, the Church bells rang and a rush was made by the natives simultaneously on the different barracks, officers' quarters and on men at the breakfast table and kitchen," Bookmiller wrote.

He estimated the attacking force at 400. Company C tried to fend off the attackers with kitchen utensils, chairs, cans of food and anything else on hand. They made a run for the rifles and reached some before the rebels.

Those who made it to five canoes on the shore of Samar faced a grueling, 40-km paddle up the coast. Three canoes swamped and some men drowned. Others succumbed to their wounds along the way.

The next day, Company G, 9th Infantry, steamed back down the coast on the USS Pittsburgh. The soldiers retook Balangiga and burned the village to the ground.

What happened over the next three months is much debated.

Filipinos sometimes claim that the Americans killed tens of thousands, possibly hundreds of thousands of their countrymen in retribution.

Linn doubts the number was nearly that high, citing US Army records that say 759 rebels were killed or captured.

"I don't understand why people keep using this term 'killing thousands,'" he said. "It's not found in the American sources and it's not found in the Philippine sources. It's not found in the writing."

Court martial

What is undisputed is that, once back home, Gen. "Howling" Jake Smith was court-martialed for an order to spare no one over age 10.

Marine commander Major Littleton Waller said Smith put it to him this way: "I want no prisoners. I wish you to kill and burn; the more you kill and burn the better it will please me."

Smith did not contest the charges against him. He was convicted and admonished and soon retired. Waller was also court-martialed. He said he was just following orders and was acquitted.

At the center of F.E. Warren Air Force Base, antelope graze near Trophy Park, where a crescent-shaped monument of crumbling brick holds the Bells of Balangiga. A glass case nearby houses the 444-year-old British Fulcrum cannon that was also taken from the village.

It was the 9th Infantry that was attacked in Balangiga, but it was the reoccupying 11th Infantry that took the bells and the cannon home to Wyoming in 1904. The oldest continually used Air Force installation, F.E. Warren oversees 50 Peacekeeper and 150 Minuteman missiles in three states.

War trophies

The plan most often talked about for resolving the debate over the bells is to duplicate them. Each nation would keep an original and a replica.

"I say, let's give one back," said Nelinda Evaristo-Dahmke, of Sheridan. She is one of Wyoming's few citizens of Filipino descent. (The US Census puts the number at 472.)

"Giving one back doesn't take a position that what we did as a government was wrong. To me it says we have developed, we have progressed since then," she said.

Bishop Joseph Hart of the Roman Catholic diocese in Cheyenne and Bishop Leonardo Y. Madroso, his counterpart in the Diocese of Borongan on the island of Samar, have also campaigned for the bells' return.

"The whole thrust of my interest is that these two bells are religious articles," Hart said. "They belong to the church and as such they should not be trophies of war."

Hart plans to hold a special National meetings in favor of copying the bells and each side keeping an original and a replica.

"It's something that the government can resolve," said Legion

national spokesperson Joe March. "A reasonable disposition is attainable. There should be reasonable minds on both sides. With the intervention of Congress and the administration, something should be worked out." AP

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Gloria backs nat'l ID system to fight terrorism

BY JULIET LABOG-JAVELLANA
GERALD LACUARTA AND
ANDREA TRINIDAD-ECHAVEZ

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has put her weight behind the proposal to put up a national identification system, saying its implementation will not only mean greater "convenience" in government transactions but will also serve to deter and detect local and international terrorists.

The President's spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao yesterday said a technical group and a private computer consultant had already been engaged to study the mechanisms of putting in place a one-ID system.

The President, he said, was also consulting officials of the Cabinet, the Armed Forces, the Philippine National Police, the National Census and Statistics Office, the Social Security System, the Government Service Insurance System, the Land Transportation Office and the Department of Science and Technology on how to flesh out the proposal.

"She has made up her mind and she supports this move. Two months ago, there were proposals to combine the computer

base of the SSS, the GSIS, the LTO to institute a one-ID system," Tiglao said.

He said the system would mean convenience because Filipinos could use only one ID in transacting with government agencies. He added the ID system would also be necessary in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks in the United States on Sept. 11.

"It's not being rushed, but given the problems of tracking down terrorists, it could even be part of the anti-terrorism campaign," Tiglao said in a news briefing.

Tiglao said the implementation of a national ID system could be part of the "major policy against terrorism" that the President was expected to announce on Friday.

Tiglao said the President would spell out the government's strategy in dealing with local terrorists and its role in the international coalition against terrorism that the US was assembling in the wake of the attacks which killed nearly 7,000 people.

Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran yesterday said implementation of the proposed ID system would have grim implications on civil liberties and democratic rights.

He also cautioned the government against using the "anti-terrorism hysteria"

to justify the proposal.

"The fact that it's Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes who announced the revival of these militarist measures already bids ill for the public," Beltran said.

He said, "The targets of these measures are not the terrorists but legitimate critics of the administration."

For its part, the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan said the measure would even worsen the problem of terrorism and criminality in the country.

The Kilusang Mayo Uno said implementation of the "much-refuted" ID system was unnecessary and could even pose severe harm to civil liberties.

Sanlakas also condemned the proposal, saying the best argument against its implementation was the "collusion between the military and the bandit group Abu Sayyaf."

"It's like handing over your bio-data to the Abu Sayyaf and (the defunct) Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force," Bayan spokesperson Renato Reyes Jr.

Tiglao said the Palace was still studying whether the system would require legislation or an administrative action.

"It's not yet clear what form this will

take but the basic idea (of having one)... has the President's support," he said.

Former President Fidel Ramos had during his term issued an administrative

order to implement the system. The Supreme Court shot down the order, saying the area fell within the purview of the legislative branch.



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LPG refilling stations pose biggest threat

REFILLING stations for liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) pose the biggest threat to the Pandacan neighborhood in case of sabotage and terrorist attacks and should be the first to be moved out of the area, according to officials.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has ordered the country's three oil refiners—Petrone, Shell and Caltex—uproot oil depots lying across the Pasig River from Malacañang amid threats of possible terrorist attacks.

The depots of the Big 3 are on adjacent properties in the Pandacan district. Officials have said that apart from environmental dangers posed by the 30-hectare complex, it could also be a prime target for terrorists in the wake of the deadly New York and Washington attacks on Sept. 11.

"The direction of President Arroyo is to move out or transfer the oil depot to another place far from the center of the city," Interior Secretary Jose Lina said over dzMM radio.

Last week, a public hearing was conducted by the Manila city council on the possibility of relocating the oil depots within an acceptable time frame of between six months to two years. While the issue had been pending for sometime, the recent terrorist attacks in the US had prompted the city government to push for the immediate relocation of the oil depots.

One of the major concerns raised in the hearings is the presence of an LPG refilling plant in one of the depots. LPG is known to be more volatile than the other petroleum products; and it is more likely to explode once it is exposed to the slightest spark.

In a refilling plant, every time a cylinder is filled some LPG in gaseous form escapes into the air, hence the danger of explosion becomes great.

Officials had proposed that the LPG refilling station be removed immediately as an initial step in decongesting the area of the danger. The rest of the depot facilities maybe relocated at a later date as this would entail huge investments.

Lina said the firms have been told to move their facilities to another location "as soon as possible," although, "there are some practical matters that have to be resolved."

Lina assured the public that the depots and the people living around them "are well secured by the government and by the owners of the establishment."

Lina said police nationwide have been on heightened alert since the Sept. 11 terror attacks in the US that claimed thousands of lives. **AFP**

Mark Jimenez misled SC, says US justice dep't

BY CATHY C. YAMSUAN

MANILA Rep. Mark Jimenez is misleading the Supreme Court when he says he is now engaged in plea bargaining with the US government on the possibility of being granted bail in the US.

The US Department of Justice gave this warning to the Philippine government after Jimenez's lawyer Mario Bautista told the high court that the congressman had hired the services of American lawyer Kenneth Starr to represent him in the supposed plea bargaining.

Bautista made this claim during oral arguments before tribunal where he defended the decision of Manila Judge Guillermo Purganan allowing Jimenez to post a P1-million bail despite the US government's request for his extradition.

But in a press statement, Jimenez clarified there was no intention on the part of his lawyer to mislead the court. He said he had misunderstood the reports furnished him from the US on the status of the negotiations being conducted by his American lawyers with the US Department of Justice.

On the basis of these reports, Jimenez said he had informed Bautista that his American lawyers had already conveyed his intention to negotiate with the US Justice Department. In turn, Bautista had then revealed this to the Supreme Court in an en banc hearing on Aug. 14.

Jimenez said he had mistaken the talks to have already covered actual negotiations on a plea bargain arrangement on his cases.

It was only much later that he had been informed by his American lawyers that there were still no ongoing talks on a plea bargain deal.

"I had acted in good faith in giving this information to Atty. Bautista, who then conveyed this to the High Court," Jimenez said.

Jimenez is wanted by the US government for tax evasion, mail fraud, illegal campaign contributions to the Democratic Party, conspiracy to commit fraud and giving false statements.

Jimenez, a US permanent resident, evaded arrest by seeking refuge in the Philippines where he returned shortly after his friend, deposed President Joseph Estrada, took his oath of office in 1998.

The US-DOJ sent a letter to Undersecretary Merceditas Gutierrez of the Department of Justice asking that Jimenez "be placed under arrest and surrendered to the United States' authorities as soon as possible."

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Media lessons

US news organizations have taken to New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani because of the admirable way he has risen to the tragic occasion. But perhaps without realizing it, American newspapers and television stations may have welcomed Giuliani's reinvention partly because it mirrors their own rise in public esteem.

Unloved and under-appreciated only a few weeks ago, both the mayor and the US media have seen their prestige rise, phoenix-like, from the ashes.

EDITORIAL

According to a Pew Research Center survey, nine out of every 10 Americans describe the media's coverage of the terrorist strikes on Sept. 11 and their aftermath as either good or excellent. Contrast this with the results of another Pew survey just a few months ago, which found that only 35 percent of Americans then believed that US news organizations even managed to get their facts straight.

"I think the press has risen to the occasion in an extraordinary fashion and people understand that," said Tom Goldstein, dean of the Columbia University School of Journalism.

In the first place, they continued to do their job, which was to provide the news evenly and comprehensively at a time of great confusion and unprecedented turmoil. This sounds almost trite, but those in the industry know just how difficult striking the balance can be even in the best of times. Perhaps the best example of this will to serve was the Wall Street Journal. Forced to abandon their offices at the World Financial Center, located right across the World Trade Center and one of many buildings that suffered serious collateral damage when the towers collapsed, the Journal's staff (many of them victims themselves) repaired to their houses and various satellite offices to grind out the next day's issue.

The US media, scored habitually for being too market-oriented, also chose to come together and promote cooperation above competition—for the sake of informing a scared, uncertain public. "The historic nature of the news prompted the networks to agree they would share all footage, live shots and information, thus removing the element of competition from the news gathering," Lisa de Moraes reported in The Washington Post the day after the attack.

The US media, known for unrelenting wall-to-wall coverage of tabloid stories like the OJ Simpson case, have also displayed an impressive restraint in their use of dramatic footage of the hijacked planes slamming into the towers and the towers themselves collapsing. The major cable networks—CNN, Fox and MSNBC—issued orders to producers on the first weekend after the attacks to use the images only if absolutely necessary. The three major US networks—ABC, CBS and NBC—have issued a similar cautionary policy. "We will only use the videos if it is essential to the story," said ABC News spokesperson Susan Nicols.

To be sure, there have been shortcomings, either in coverage or in editorial judgment. The New York Daily News, for example, ran a truly horrifying picture: a color photo of a severed hand found in the rubble of the World Trade Center. The much-discussed lack of interest of US mainstream media in foreign news also came back to haunt them; when the spotlight shifted to Afghanistan, where suspected terrorist mastermind Osama bin Laden is believed to be in hiding, only CNN had a man on the ground. But overall, the US media have responded competently and professionally.

The general praise for the media, however, should not be a reason for complacency—particularly when one of the fronts in what the US government calls the "new war on terrorism" will likely be the public's own right to know.

"This is the most information-intensive war you can imagine... We're going to lie about things," a US military officer involved in the planning told Howard Kurtz of the Post. "If it is an information war, certainly the bad guys will lie."

Asked by reporters for proof of Bin Laden's involvement, White House spokesperson Ari Fleischer replied, "You have the right to ask those questions. I have the responsibility not to answer them."

Surely that is a mistake. Such proof does not involve troop movements or attack targets—sensitive information that must of course be kept secret. Rather, it is information that the dynamics of coalition warfare requires. It goes right to the heart of the matter, the very reason for waging this new war. Regardless of what the bureaucrats say in these perilous times, the media should use their new-found prestige to continue to serve the public's right to know.

GMA tells DOTC chief to explain onerous Piatco contract

A MALACANANG source told me that during a Cabinet meeting in Malacañang last week, Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez was asked about the complaints against the contract between the government and Philippine International Air Terminal Co. (Piatco) on the construction and operation of NAIA Terminal 3 at Villamor Air Base. Alvarez reportedly tried to dismiss the case against him as "harassment" and "politically motivated." He said one of his undersecretaries wants to replace him as secretary of the Department of Transportation and Communications.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was not convinced. She reportedly ordered Alvarez to answer point by point the allegedly onerous provisions of the contract that are grossly disadvantageous to the government (see *As I See It*, 9/17-18/01). Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo, the same source said, was "so shocked" by the contract.

I don't know how accurate my informant was, but Alvarez really should explain those onerous provisions not only to the President but to the public. That contract had long been kept secret by Alvarez in spite of demands from the airport service operators at Naia Terminals 1 and 2 for copies. Examination of the contract revealed why. Many provisions are so grossly disadvantageous to the government as to be criminal and fall under the prohibited acts in the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act.

The MIA-Naia Association of Service Operators (Masos) has asked Alvarez to review the contract, but he refuses to do that. Neither does he want to refer it for review to the appropriate government agencies. The Estrada administration had mangled the original contract at least three times: it was amended in November 1990 and subsequently supplemented twice. Yet, Alvarez does not want to touch the agreement. Why? The reason is obvious. Perhaps, he already knows that it is disadvantageous to the government because he was involved in it from the very beginning.

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz



In 1977, as assistant general manager of Naia, Alvarez was one of the members of the committee that evaluated and approved the Piatco proposal.

As a representative from 1998 until his appointment as transportation secretary when President Macapagal assumed power, Alvarez was one of the vice chairmen of the House Committee on Transportation and Communications which investigated the concession agreement for the construction and operation of Terminal 3.

At the time the concession agreement in favor of Piatco was being crafted, Alvarez by his own admission and as borne out by official records, was among the owners of Wintrack Builders Inc. which was appointed as Piatco's main contractor for the demolition and hauling out of "subterranean structures," i.e. drainage and other pipes, under a contract of demolition dated Oct. 20, 2002. The agreement between Piatco and the government obliges the latter to deliver the 6-hectare site "clear of surface, below-surface and subterranean obstructions." However, the government turned over the responsibility to Piatco, which in turn assigned Wintrack to do the job. Costs would be charged against the government's guaranteed income from concession fees. No specific amount was spelled out. Piatco and Wintrack were "unconditionally authorized" to deduct from the government's guaranteed income amounts claimed to have been spent in the removal of the subterranean structures. It is like giving Piatco and Wintrack blank checks.

But Alvarez is not the issue here although he tries to focus the issue on himself to divert attention from the contract itself.

He dismisses questions raised against the contract as "black propaganda and blackmail aimed at blocking his confirmation by the Commission on Appointments."

But all Alvarez is being asked to do is to review the contract. However, he persists in implementing the agreement, insisting that it is his mandate as transportation secretary to do so.

As stated earlier, the original contract was amended and supplemented at least three times during the Estrada administration. Why can't Alvarez touch it when he has all the reasons to do so? Why is he insistent on implementing the agreement as amended, restated and supplemented to the obvious detriment of the government? If he sees nothing wrong with it, he must be blind. Or pretending to be blind.

Already there are resolutions in both Houses of Congress—filed by Sen. Edgardo Angara and Rep. Sherwin Gatchalian—seeking a review of the agreement.

The Angeles City council unanimously passed a resolution urging the Commission on Appointments to reject the appointment of Alvarez. That was triggered by Alvarez's refusal to review a provision which would restrict the development of Clark International Airport, and bar the government from constructing any other international airport anywhere in the whole of Luzon, during the duration of Piatco's 25-year lease.

The airport industry organization, Masos, (composed of the country's leading providers of airport services with foreign partners) has filed plunder charges against Alvarez, other officials, and the principals of Piatco and its affiliate companies. Masos went to court because instead of listening to legitimate complaints, Alvarez dared it to go to court.

Masos has also brought the matter to the attention of the foreign funders of Terminal 3.

Finally, Masos has elevated the issue to Malacañang. The President has reportedly directed Executive Secretary Romulo to talk to Alvarez about the problem.

Personal

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros



world, it fanned the flames of "Islamic fundamentalism" across the world, the one thing the American government equates with global terrorism, notwithstanding George Bush the Younger's subsequent efforts to correct his equation of them immediately after the razing of the twin towers. It did not end terrorism, it brought it straight into the heart of America.

The fact that America has now been wronged, the fact that America is now aggrieved, changes little. Being wronged is not a natural qualification to lead the world in a holy crusade. Being aggrieved is not a natural right to obtain absolute power to do anything one wants. Nor is the opposite true. Being backward and unenlightened—which the Taliban truly are: to this day they wreak the most painful rituals on their women, and only recently, despite worldwide opposition, they reduced to dust the centuries-old Buddhist figures carved into their mountains, an irreplaceable human treasure—are not a natural invitation to being obliterated from the face of the earth.

Maybe Bin Laden will be bombed out of existence: already we see thousands of Afghans, their earthly possessions in carts or on their backs, crossing their borders in anticipation of it. Or captured and left hanging on a tree, his balls stuffed inside his mouth, the way he did the Soviet-backed leader of Kabul. This is, after all, the biggest manhunt in human history, as CNN keeps reminding us, and there are limits even to the most ingenious terrorist's capacity to escape it.

Will that end terrorism? No. Will that leave a better world in its wake? No. Not unless America looks into its heart and sees its own role in supplying the ground, if not the seeds themselves,

that have sprouted the old one.

I did not have a friend or relative die in the World Trade Center, and for that I am eternally grateful. And for that I commiserate, whether they accept it or not, with those who did. But this is personal with me too. Not least because I have children for whom I want to leave a less brutish world than the one we have now.

I did not have a friend or relative die in New York. But I've seen friends die for fighting a tyranny without seeing the world shed a tear for them, least of all the people who now demand that we more than shed tears for them, we shed blood for them. I know enough of this country's history to see the ghosts of the countless men, women and children who went to their graves because Americans were roused to a holy war, despite protestations by Americans like Mark Twain, by the sinking of one of their warships off the Cuban coast. I know enough of the history of Asia to see the sightless and skinless forms resembling human beings that groped about in Hiroshima and Nagasaki before collapsing into a pile of bones. I know enough of the history of the world to see a Muslim child lying on a slab of stone in a morgue in Bosnia, sunlight peeping into his face, and making him look as though he were only sleeping.

I've seen the images and heard the commentaries and read the letters, and truly they have all done an outstanding job in showing that America's pain is the world's pain. What they have not done equally outstandingly, or at all, is to show that the world's pain is America's pain.

That the death of an Arab child weighs as heavily on the American heart as one of their own. That the slaughter of the innocents amid the ruins of war in the Middle East, or Asia, or Africa, preys on the American mind as implacably as that under the towers of peace in the heart of America. That the exodus of men, women and children toward God, or Allah, knows where, blights the American soul as does the thousands of New Yorkers who now wander the streets of lower Manhattan looking for what they have lost.

Ah, but personal cuts both ways.

Clamping down on terrorist funds

THE UNITED States has opened a second front in the war on terrorists with the decision by President George W. Bush to freeze the US assets and the transactions of 27 individuals and organizations suspected to have links with international terrorist networks.

The United States also warned that it would freeze the assets and transactions of foreign banks that won't cooperate with the US campaign to track down and seize the financial foundation of the "global terrorist network."

The list of 27 includes the Abu Sayyaf, the extremist Muslim group responsible for two big abductions of civilians in Sipadan, Malaysia and in Palawan; Osama bin Laden, the prime suspect in the Sept. 11 suicide airline attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon; and the al-Qaida/Islamic Army, tagged by multi-national intelligence services as the network which coordinated the attacks.

The directive followed the tenor of the US warning last week, in its effort to build an international coalition against terrorism, in which President Bush told the rest of the world to make a choice between the anti-terrorist campaign led by the United States and the terrorists. Bush minced no words in asking the international financial community to stand up and be counted. He said: "Today we have launched a strike on the financial foundation of the global terror network. We are putting banks and financial institutions around the world on notice. If you do business with terrorists, if you do support or sponsor them, you will not do business with the United States of America."

How the warning translates to the Abu Sayyaf is unclear and problematic. While it is true that Philippine military intelligence and US intelligence have established that some Abu Sayyaf leaders have trained with Bin Laden's camps in Afghanistan, the ransom money that has been extracted by the Abu Sayyaf from its hostages, both foreign and Filipinos, is believed not to have found its way into the Philippine banking system. There is now pressure on the Philippine government to pass an anti-money-laundering legislation to integrate the country into the international struc-

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila



ture combating the flow of illegally derived money, especially from the narcotics trade, but this request did not come from the United States and was initiated before the Sept. 11 attacks. The pressure comes from the Paris-based Financial Action Task Force which has warned of financial sanctions if the Philippines does not pass the anti-laundering bill by Sept. 30, the deadline set by the task force.

The possible explanation for the inclusion of the Abu Sayyaf in the order to freeze the assets of the 27 groups is that the United States is plugging every hole—big and small—to squeeze financing of terrorist groups which have been revealed by criminal investigations after the Sept. 11 bombings to be operating on a global scale in more than a dozen countries. There are problems tracking money financing terrorist activities. The Islamic banking system is hard to penetrate. Economic intelligence reports also say that money financing terrorists may involve small sums hand-carried by couriers and the movement of such money cannot be spotted in regular banking transactions.

There is doubt whether Bin Laden's reported fabulous wealth is sufficient to finance global terror activities. At least one report, by the Financial Times, says that "despite estimates that Osama bin Laden, who comes from a Saudi family construction empire worth \$5 billion, had inherited wealth of up to \$300 million, some Saudi dissidents believe he was technically bankrupt when he moved from Sudan to Afghanistan in 1996."

The report said that, according to the Saudi dissident sources, the Saudi authorities acted to freeze his assets in the kingdom when Bin Laden was deprived of his Saudi citizenship in 1994. The

report said that his role "may have become the magnet for funding which is then disbursed by associated groups, rather than as head of an identifiable corporate structure."

There is also an opinion that the attacks in the United States may not have required enormous funding since they were carried out with hijacked airliners seized by terrorists armed with crude low-tech weapons—like knives and cardboard cutters.

The contribution of the Philippines to squeeze the financial networks of international terrorism may not therefore be significant since there's no way to trace the Abu Sayyaf ransom money in the banking system.

It is in the military logistical and intelligence cooperation aspects where the Philippine contribution to the anti-terrorist coalition might be more useful. Already, US aircraft and naval vessels that are being moved toward the Arabian Gulf and the Indian Ocean, as staging points for attack on Afghanistan, have been allowed to refuel in former US bases in the country. The National Security Council has authorized these transit arrangements as part of the commitment of the Macapagal administration pledging Philippine support of the global anti-terrorist campaign. Also, Philippine intelligence on the Abu Sayyaf and previous visits in the country of Bin Laden's cohorts has been fed to the international pool of information to help track down the perpetrators of the attacks and to paralyze their networks.

Beyond these, it is unrealistic to expect requests from the United States for the Philippines to commit combat troops in an imminent attack on Afghanistan either by the United States or an international coalition force. The preparations for an attack put an accent on special forces—a highly specialized form of combat—and high-tech directed focused attacks on terrorist bases and training camps inside Afghanistan. Among the many nations that have pledged to support the US-led war on terrorism, only its European allies have said they would send combat troops. Ships and aircraft refueling in the Philippines are part of that build-up of forces in areas closer to Afghanistan.

The War Prayer

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David



Lord our God, Father and Protector of our land and flag!" At this the stranger touched the preacher's arm and motioned him to step aside. Then he addressed the congregation: "I come from the Throne—bearing a message from Almighty God!" he said, shocking all those gathered into silence. Then he explained that God had heard the prayers not just of the minister but of everyone in the assembly. But every prayer directed to the Lord, he said, is not just one prayer but two—"one uttered, the other not."

In praying for victory, said the stranger, "you have prayed for many unmentioned results which follow victory—must follow it, cannot help but follow it." He had been commanded by God, the stranger said, to put into words the unspoken part of the preacher's prayer. This was the prayer:

"O LORD our Father, our young patriots, idols of our hearts, go forth to battle—be Thou near them! With them, in spirit, we also go forth from the sweet peace of our beloved firesides to smite the foe. O Lord our God, help us to tear their soldiers to bloody shreds with our shells; help us to cover their smiling fields with the pale forms of their patriot dead; help us to drown the thunder of the guns with the shrieks of their wounded, writhing in pain; help us to lay waste their humble homes with a hurricane of fire; help us to wring the hearts of their unoffending widows with unavailing grief; help us to turn them out roofless with their little children to wander unfriended the wastes of their desolated land in rags and hunger and thirst, sports of the sun flames of summer and the icy winds of winter, broken in spirit, worn with travail, imploring Thee for the refuge of the grave and denied it—for our sakes who adore

Thee, Lord, blast their hopes, blight their lives, protract their bitter pilgrimage, make heavy their steps, water their way with their tears, stain the white snow with the blood of their wounded feet! We ask it, in the spirit of love, of Him Who is the Source of Love, and Who is ever-faithful refuge and friend of all that are sore beset and seek His aid with humble and contrite hearts. Amen."

Twain closes his story thus: "It was believed afterward that the man was a lunatic, because there was no sense in what he said."

THERE'S still enough time to catch the last two "webcasts" of "In the Aftermath of Terror: Women Activists Discuss Peace, Justice and Conflict Resolution in a Globalized World."

The live interactive webcast discussion is sponsored by Costa Rica-based Feminist International Radio Endeavor (Fife), the Women's International News Gathering Service (Wings) and the Women's Learning Partnership for Rights, Development and Peace (WLP).

Taking part in this "electronic colloquium" are women leaders from Afghanistan, Iran, Palestine, India, Pakistan, Canada, the United States, Jordan, Nigeria and Portugal. Among them are Mahnaz Afkhami, former Minister of State for Women's Affairs of Iran and founder and president of the WLP; Charlotte Bunch, founder and executive director of the Center for Women's Global Leadership at Rutgers University; Asma Khader, executive committee member of the International Commission of Jurists and a leading advocate of the campaign to outlaw honor killings in Jordan; Huguette Labelle, former President of the Canadian International Development Agency (Cida); and Maria de Lourdes Pintasilgo, former Prime Minister of Portugal and member of the European Parliament. You can catch the discussion, which began Monday and ends tomorrow, by tuning in to www.fire.or.cr at 9:30 a.m. Costa Rica time (11:30 p.m. Manila time). Listeners may send in questions by logging on to fuegoer@racs.co.cr or placing them in the chat room at Fire's Internet Radio station.

How to make and keep your wife happy

I AM now 73 years old and have been married for almost 50 years, but I am still interested, if not more so now, in how to make my wife happy. I don't refer to money or other material things to give to her, of which I have little, anyway. I have in mind the important things that have to do with a wife's real and lasting happiness.

When I was very young I read somewhere that the best way to make your wife happy was to treat her as you handle your new car. I got married later, but I

could not put the advice to a test because I could not even afford a battered car. So I played along with what I saw and heard from other husbands. This, of course, was unreliable because some husbands act only for show while others tend to brag about how they treat their spouses, faithfully or otherwise.

I managed later to buy a new car on installment. I was eager to handle it the way it was supposed to be handled, and to discover how I should properly treat my wife.

I found myself on the right track when I opened the owner's manual that came with the car. It said, "Congratulations for acquiring this (brand of car). We have designed and built it with COMPLETE SATISFACTION in mind."

The manual reminded me of the day my bride and I marched down the aisle. I knew then that I was completely satisfied. I beamed with pride as relatives and friends congratulated me, their eyes glued to the beautiful vision beside me. This, I thought, must be the correct way to regard a new car and a new wife: show them off to friends and relatives with complete satisfaction.

From the dealer's shop, I drove my car straight home and parked it in front of my small abode. I must have tooted the horn too loudly because in no time at all, my wife was already beside me saying her "ahs" and "ohs" as she beheld my princely carriage. In the corner of my eye I saw my neighbor and his spouse open their window to see what the ruckus was about, only to shut the window almost immediately and rather noisily. But I didn't mind. I was excited over my new car.

The first thing to do, I said to myself, was to take my car's picture with my wife for posterity. Then I would bring it on Sunday to our priest and take its picture with my wife watching the priest bless the car, also for posterity. Then I would paste the pictures in my wife's wedding album. There was nothing like recording properly this rare event in my life.

As I studied the manual, I wondered why there was no book on how a wife should be handled. The manual said many things about how to maintain and service the car, the kind of gas and oil to feed it, and the frequency and regularity of servicing it.

There was nothing like this as regards wives. I wanted to be fair to my wife, so I tried to see if there were any pieces of advice in the manual that could be applied to her. I found many.

As the days went by, I found myself spending all my free time with the car rather than with buddies and my usual private pursuits after work, if you know what I mean.

I would smooth my hand on my car's sheen and flick an imaginary dust particle off its finish. I would inspect it for a smudge on its body, even though I had just washed, rinsed and waxed it, which I realized I was doing too often. I even bought two sets of the best seatcovers and the best air fresheners for it.

I was embarrassed to realize that I had not given the same attention to my wife and had not bought her a single dress or bottle of perfume. I resolved to be more attentive to her. I had no excuse about the perfume, but I reassured myself that the reason I didn't buy the dress was that her size, like her age, kept changing all the time.

I spent hours peering at my chariot's body, fenders and bumpers. I was forever twiddling with the steering wheel and stick shift, and lifting the hood to inspect the engine and all the whysamajigs in order to know how they worked. I enjoyed running the engine, engaging and disengaging the gears, and listening to the motor purring like a kitten. And I was doing all these at home where I was now spending quality time with my wife.

If it were possible, I would have told my car how much I liked it and wanted to spend more time with it. If perchance I hadn't said the same things to my wife, I resolved to do so soon.

Before going to work, I would sit behind the wheel and enjoy the thought that my car and I were about to go and face the world together. I saw for the first time that it seemed not fair for me not to take along the wife out into the world once in a while instead of leaving her to the drudgery of housework.

I was extra careful with my car. I didn't want it bumped. A dent on it would be bad, but a two-inch gash on its body would be disastrous. I would park it in the shade to preserve its beauty even if I had to walk a mile to my destination. I did not want to lose it, so I would park it only in a safe location.

The guy who knew how to handle a new car and would apply this expertise on his wife was a genius. He was completely satisfied and proud of his new car, he devoted much time to it. He was fastidious about it. He wanted it safe, and he did not want it damaged. He did not want anyone to steal it or his heart would break. He was so devoted to it that if it were possible, he would love it, as if his only goal were to make it happy and contented. Then, inevitably he asks himself: What have I been thinking about and doing and not doing for that little woman in the house?

My wife knew my sentiments for my car. She would sometimes roll her eyes, mystified perhaps by the special, if not excessive, attention I was constantly giving to the car. But she never complained or felt jealous. On the contrary, she was glad because she knew that I had changed. Above all she saw that I was now trying harder to be nice and loving to her. Because of this she became happy as ever and we both became more contented and close to each other.

You guys out there: Get a new car—go in debt like me if necessary—and follow my example, and you'll have a more wonderful woman in your house. There is a bonus, which is that you'll become a better husband yourself.

In time, however, my car aged and deteriorated. It now had bulges, it wobbled, and it had creaks here and squeaks there.

Its performance went awry. In the United States they throw such a car into the junk pile or trade it in for a newer one. I did not give up. I had its body rebuilt and repainted and its bumper, engine and other moving parts replaced. I added more chrome parts to its body to make it more beautiful and attractive. I had it reconditioned by the best auto specialists and clinics. Soon it was again purring like a kitten.

I looked at my wife and saw that she also had seen better days. She was aging, she had bulges now, she was unsteady on her feet, and had creaks here and squeaks there. Even her attitude had changed. If I smoothed my hand on her shoulder, flicked an imaginary speck from her hair or fussed about her cheeks, she moved aside because such things were "childish." Time had changed her, but in the Philippines, it is illegal and unkind to think of discarding an old wife or to look for a young replacement.

But I also did not give up. I brought her to medical specialists and clinics. She had operations like varicose vein removal, a little face-lift and hysterectomy, which I joked because such things were "childish." Time had changed her, but in the Philippines, it is illegal and unkind to think of discarding an old wife or to look for a young replacement.

My trouble and expenses were well worth it. Regardless of the result on her overall appearance, my wife was confident, perhaps deluded, that all those ravages of time on her had disappeared.

In fact, I assured her that they were gone. Soon she became better in many ways. She performed better in the house. She became more peppy and indispensable to me and the children. Her disposition became more pleasant and her spirits higher. Above all, she learned to be more forgiving of my faults which had multiplied in time.

In short, my wife became a better person. She was like good wine that became sweeter and gained fuller flavor with age.

CIRCULATING in an e-group of which I'm a member, is a short story by Mark Twain that he wrote at the height of the Filipino-American War. Twain led the Anti-Imperialist League which opposed the annexation of the Philippines by the United States, and wrote many a scathing article assailing American colonial policy.

This short story, entitled "The War Prayer," was deemed so incendiary friends urged Twain not to publish it during his lifetime. It finally saw print as America prepared to join the fray in World War I and has become something of a "classic" in anti-war literature.

Given the war drums now being sounded, and the looming possibility of World War III in the wake of the Sept. 11 tragedy in the United States, a retelling of the story seems in order.

For lack of space, I won't be reprinting the entire story but only the most interesting portions.

Anyway, the story opens at "a time of great and exalting excitement," with "every breast burning (with) the holy fire of patriotism." A war was on, and "the half dozen rash spirits that ventured to disapprove of the war and cast a doubt upon its righteousness straightway got such a stern and angry warning that for their personal safety's sake they quickly shrank out of sight and offended no more in that way."

Sunday morning, and the departing soldiers were given a most rousing service. Passages full of martial stirrings were read and patriotic songs were sung. Then the minister stood for the "long" prayer, asking God to watch over the "noble young soldiers" and "help them crush the foe."

THEN "an aged stranger entered and moved with slow and noiseless step up the main aisle, his eyes fixed upon the minister, his long body clothed in a robe that reached to his feet, his head bare, his white hair descending in a frothy cataract to his shoulders, his seamy face unnaturally pale, pale even to ghastliness."

The stranger made his way to the preacher's side just as the preacher was making his final appeal: "Bless our arms, grant us the victory, O

Thanks to Emma H. Blair and James A. Robertson

LOOKING back on my research and writing I often wish I had two or three lifetimes more. There is so much to be dug up and written about that I rejoice each time I meet young researchers hoping they persevere in a career that is best described as hard, lonely and thankless. One of the projects that I hope to pursue when I retire from teaching is an annotated edition of "Blair and Robertson (BR)." While some find it easy to criticize the massive 55-volume set for documents that are lacking, mistranslated, or badly edited it remains the handiest reference you can get on the Spanish Philippines. What it needs today is an editor who will go over the entire compilation to correct mistakes of fact, translation, or annotation. Then, fill in the gaps with additional documents. Finally, the editor must write a new preface to each volume to inform the modern reader about the strengths and weaknesses of the contents in the light of current research. I was crazy enough to embark on this project and got as far as Volume 8 when I realized it would take more than monastic solitude to bring this project to completion.

My interest in BR was revived last year courtesy of a timely Fulbright Research Fellowship to the United States. I came across the raw materials used in BR in the Newberry Library in Chicago. This alone would save me the trouble of going through the Spanish archives in Madrid and Sevilla to trace each and every document used in BR. More importantly, I read the letters of Emma Helen Blair (1851-1911) to James Alexander Robertson that covered not only the making of BR but some very personal things as well.

Before I read Miss Blair's letters I presumed that the motivation for this scholarly enterprise was Robertson who served as director of the National Library in Manila. I thought he was being nice to Miss Blair by letting her appear as the "senior" editor of BR. That was a big mistake,

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo



Blair was the prime mover of BR, and a letter she sent Robertson in 1902 sent chills down my spine:

"In Legazpi's relation of 1565 you omit the following words as untranslatable: *y hezimes gentiles carestendas*. I think that the difficulty lies in the omission of a letter in the last word; make it *carestendas*, and it would read (as I have made it), with which we enjoyed a merry carnival."

"...In the Legazpi synopsis, you had citations of documents refer to 'No.' but crossed it out and wrote 'num.' instead. But as you had said in a late letter that you preferred 'no.' I changed all of the references back to that form; so we must keep it now. I myself prefer 'no.' In the synopsis, you are not always uniform in the tense used for narration. I left most of them in the past tense, but changed some few to present form when that seemed preferable for any reason."

"There are some words that we might better use than other which represent the same idea; sometimes as being more specific, and sometimes as more inclusive. e.g. swine is preferable to hogs; poultry to chickens; specimens to samples; in most cases 'so great a man' to 'such a great man'; encountered to came upon. It is better to avoid a preposition at the end of a sentence, when possible; also to be very cautious in using colloquial forms, if any other can be found. That and this and those and these cannot be well used interchangeably; if the writer is in Spain, he would not speak of 'these' islands, referring to the Philippines."

"You have been so long working in a foreign tongue, and old forms at that, that you have sometimes used them rather than English forms, in capitalization. Please capitalize: Indians, Moros, Christian, Mahometan, Easter day, Malayan; I have also capitalized Audiencia, on account of its importance and the solitary character of that body."

The above letter proves that she was indeed "a whirlwind of a woman" who practically castrated poor Dr. Robertson. Miss Blair was strict with work and money. In one letter she sent six cents she owed Robertson for a laundry bill. Then there was unsolicited advice like that warning Robertson about malaria in Washington, "caused by the ooze and deposits left by the tides in the Potomac...which decays and causes foul and dangerous exhalations...be cautious about choosing a street where you can live in a well-drained house and locality; and where the ground will not be torn up for paving, lighting etc...You cannot be too careful in this matter; everything for you, and much for us both, depends on your keeping in good health." While this can be interpreted as maternal concern, wait till you read Miss Blair's sharp comments about the woman Robertson was courting!

Miss Blair's letters helped put a human face on this great historical enterprise we know today as BR. What I feel bad about is the fact that she was not properly compensated for the dedication and scholarship she put into BR which was a financial disaster. Worse, the University of Wisconsin in 1909 awarded her an MA *honoris causa* when she was worth at least a PhD. Filipino historians who have used BR with much profit owe this forgotten woman a lot. I don't care what critics say of BR today but this column is my belated way of saying thank you.

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

Old-fashioned joys for me

My used savings account pass-books number quite a few.

My land telephone lines work, though only two.

My computer knowledge is limited, perhaps for lack of practice.

But I'm fast with my manual typewriter that serves my purpose, please.

Have I a need for an ATM, a cell phone, or an internet line?

I think not, I don't miss them. But people say I've closed my mind.

I'm showing my age. I'm afraid I am. Some don't ask because they're kind.

But it does not make me less effi-

cient, considering the work where I am.

I give reasons and excuses and I think they're not farfetched.

Why should I stand in line under sun and rain waiting for my own money?

I am neither mobile nor hard to reach, so why carry a phone around?

I enjoy reading books and my mail is not that heavy.

Old-fashioned pleasures, that's my cup of tea.

Hand-written notes, friendly bank tellers, two-way conversations.

Texting is not my style although sometimes they're fast and convenient.

But some people overdo it, while crossing the street, even in churches, or over social lunches.

I do not mean to put down modern technology.

I think it's great, awesome and unbelievable.

But somehow the use for me is lost, given my habits and lifestyle. Noise-free, laid-back and subdued—is what I want for now.

—CAROLINA S. TANDOG, personnel director, Xavier University, Cagayan de Oro City

Negros judge not impeding Carp

PLEASE allow me to clarify the matters raised by Secretary Hernani Braganza of the Department of Agrarian Reform last Sept. 13, 2001.

I am the presiding judge of Branch 63 of the Regional Trial Court of La Carlota City that has territorial jurisdiction over the municipalities of Pontevedra, La Castellana, Isabela and Moises Padilla in Negros Occidental. I could have not have therefore impeded or obstructed the Land Reform Program in the whole of Negros Occidental as implied by the report.

The temporary restraining orders mentioned in the newspaper report refer to those I issued in the cases filed with my court questioning the legality of the notice of compulsory coverage of the lands of the plaintiffs after the expiration of the period provided in Section 7 of the Agrarian Reform Law.

The plaintiffs in all the said cases wanted the issuance of a temporary restraining order/preliminary injunction pending the determination by the court of the legality of coverage of plaintiffs' lands beyond the period provided in Sec-

tion 7 of the Agrarian Reform Law and the constitutionality of Executive Order No. 405.

I issued the temporary restraining orders/preliminary injunctions in the light of what I honestly and in good faith believed to be the applicable law and the jurisprudence contrary to the submission of the defendants Municipal Agrarian Reform Officer and Land Bank of the Philippines that I have no jurisdiction to issue them.

In the particular case of Cuenca vs. Fortunado, et al., Civil Case No. 713, which seems to be the case specifically referred to by the Honorable Secretary, the application for temporary restraining order/preliminary injunction was submitted by the parties for resolution on the basis of their pleadings, motion to dismiss and other papers filed with the court.

After I resolved to issue the preliminary injunction prayed for; the Department of Agrarian Reform filed a petition for certiorari with the Court of Appeals to set aside or annul my order granting injunction on the ground that I had no jurisdiction to issue it. Thereafter, Court

of Appeals directed DAR to show cause why its petition should not be dismissed for having been filed out of time and for failing to file a motion for the reconsideration of my order granting injunction. The injunction I issued stands because until this time the case is still pending in the Court of Appeals;

As regards the other identical cases where I issued temporary restraining orders, I went on sick leave on March 14, 2001 and until the present I am still on sick leave, after reporting for work for a short period from June 27 to 29, 2001. Technically, the restraining orders that I have issued have all become *functus officio* because their effectivity has already lapsed, although the parties have agreed to comply with it until the resolution by the Court of Appeals of the Cuenca vs. Fortunado case. They cannot therefore be considered as still effectively blocking or impeding the coverage of the lands subject thereof under the Agrarian Reform Law.—ALFONSO COMBONG JR., Judge, 6th Judicial Region, Regional Trial Court, Branch 63, La Carlota City

Rethinking plans on the ROTC program

THE PHILIPPINES will run out of reservists if the ROTC program is scrapped or made optional. If made optional, a very insignificant number of students will choose to undergo training. Over the years, college students have taken the line of least resistance. They feign illness or bribe ROTC instructors to exempt them from training. Little do they realize that in a national emergency, the country needs to mobilize its manpower to meet the threat to its security. Every year, the ranks of the reserve force are dwindling because of age. Without the yearly infusion of ROTC graduates into the reserve force, the country will find itself in a precarious situation where mobilization cannot be

done because there is no reserve force to speak of or rely on.

The ROTC program should be continued for the national interest. All male and female college students should undergo the two-year basic training. Those who aspire to be commissioned, should take the advance course. AFP doctors should conduct physical and medical examinations of college students to determine who are fit for training in various services of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Those who cannot make the grade should be shunted to training in community service.

The revitalized ROTC program should be handled by honest, dedicated and capable AFP officers and men.

The ROTC program should be radically improved. Less emphasis should be given to drills, parades and reviews. Combat training, skirmishers; familiarity with various weapons, e.g., handguns, long arms, automatic weapons, recoilless rifles, artillery pieces of different calibers; survival techniques: communications; first aid etc., should be taught.

The dangers posed by global terrorism should awaken us to reality. We should maintain an adequate reserve force that is properly trained and capable to rise to the occasion. The ROTC is the answer.—APOLONIO G. RAMOS, 42 Mindanao St., Marikina City

Voted yes 'with reservations'

I HOPE columnist Bel O. Cunanan will call not only Uncle Jovy Salonga but also those whose answers she may not like. (PDI, 9/24/01) I did not vote yes on the plunder bill on July 25, 1989 on third reading (votes on second reading are not recorded). I concurred in the final conference committee report "with reservations," which you do when you have misgivings. Dean Pacifico Agabin showed why certain of my Senate colleagues at the time and criminal law experts later shared said qualms which he articulated so well when he argued in the Supreme Court on Sept. 18. I don't know the basis for stopping him from arguing the way he did to save the

Estrada from the death penalty, for one thing. It is his ethical duty as a lawyer to avail himself of any defense available under the laws of the land, including contending that a law is unconstitutional. The Estrada-bashers must find a better reason than how he and I vote or did not vote.

The issue of unconstitutionality of the law affects Ms. Dominga Manalili, Mayor Jinggoy Estrada, lawyer Edward Serapio, and others in the bureaucracy and elsewhere. There cannot be one ruling for Estrada and another for those who had no hand in the passage of the law. The ruling will affect all uniformly. As to Mr. Noel Trinidad (PDI, 9/

24/01), I have to appeal to him to tolerate ideas he may hate. I hope to get to meet him someday, not to see him act, but to try to get him to understand the little bit we did, for his right to be sarcastic, during the dark years when sarcasm was the least of our worries. But, as Frankfurter said, the Bill of Rights is also meant for not very nice people. It is one thing to use a political platform to denounce those in power but, baby, the moment you start a criminal proceeding, even against the deposed, detained and disgraced, the Bill of Rights comes into play.—R.A.V. SAGUISAG, Saguisag and Associates Lawyers, Makati City



Budget slash affects health workers

ONE would think upon hearing the following words that the person needing help is a prisoner: "Hindi kami mangangako, Nenita, pero susubukan naming makalabas kayo rito."

No, Nenita is not in a penitentiary, but she is indeed a prisoner at a tertiary public hospital in Tondo. Her one-year-old child, Antonette, was confined for almost two weeks for measles complicated with broncho-pneumonia. Both mother and child cannot leave the hospital although the doctors have said they can go home already. Their hospital bill amounts to P4,761.95 and the mother only has P350 left in her wallet.

The story of Nenita and her child is only one of the many cases you would hear in different public hospitals since user-fee charges was imposed. The public hospitals' vigorous collection was reinforced by the government's policy to decrease spending on health, even though the proposed 2002 health budget of P11.7 billion is only 1.5 percent of the national budget.

It is not only the patients who are affected but also the health workers. Their benefits, such as the hazard pay and subsistence allowance, are being slowly taken away from them. In the Letter Circular No. 2001-10 of the Department of Budget and Management, the 15 percent hazard pay was abolished and the P50-a-day subsistence allowance was reduced to P30. Even the 5 percent increase in the monthly salary given to hospital workers is but a drop in the bucket. For an ordinary worker, that increase amounts to only P242—not even enough to cover a week's transportation expenses.

Now that Congress is about to deliberate on the budget, our lawmakers should lend us their ears. We at the health sector are the ones suffering from the repercussions of a decreasing health budget. We are the ones whose hearts continually bleed for patients who do not have enough money to pay for their health care. We are in the frontline, working 24 hours a day, seven days a week, witnessing how our health care system turning from bad to worse with all the policies made by this administration and previous administrations.

Health workers are instrumental in saving human lives and yet we are left to survive on a non-living wage.—EMMA MANUEL, president, Alliance of Health Workers, P.O. Box 3614 Manila

Sharon risks angering US over Arafat meet

JERUSALEM—Prime Minister Ariel Sharon risks antagonizing Israel's closest ally the United States by demanding 48 hours of absolute calm—an almost impossible task—before he will allow a ceasefire meeting, analysts say.

Talks between Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, crucial for Washington's bid to get moderate Arab countries to join its anti-terrorism coalition, were postponed again on Monday.

The immediate reason this time was the shooting to death of a 28-year-old Israeli settler woman in the West Bank in an ambush claimed by the radical Palestinian group Islamic Jihad.

The hardline Sharon has not bothered to hide his opposition to the meeting, which he believes will play into Arafat's hands amid the tense atmosphere after the hijacked jetliner bombings in New York and Washington.

Last week he finally gave in to pressure from US President George W. Bush and Secretary of State Colin Powell, and agreed the meeting could proceed.

But he set as a condition 48 hours of absolute calm in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, where a Palestinian uprising has raged for nearly a year.

Arafat declared a Palestinian ceasefire last week to create the conditions for the meeting.

Yet the 48-hour requirement in effect gives radical Palestinian groups like Islamic Jihad, which oppose the peace process and have sworn to ignore the ceasefire, a virtual veto over any direct talks with Arafat.

Israeli analyst Gerald Steinberg believes Sharon is "taking a risk" with the United States but said the prime minister would likely have allowed the meeting later Monday had the settler woman not been killed.

Sharon "reached a position where he had no choice" and could not have postponed it again, said Steinberg, a researcher for the Besa Center for Strategic Studies at Bar-Ilan University near Tel Aviv.

"If today we had not had the murder in the Jordan valley and if Peres and Arafat had not met, if Sharon had still refused to allow the meeting, it would have been damaging to Sharon's image in the United States," he said.

Instead Sharon can now say Arafat was responsible for the death, even though he admitted to French Foreign Minister Hubert Vedrine on Monday that the Palestinian leader is seriously trying to stop the bloodshed.

In the short-term, the latest Israeli murder will probably increase US pressure on Arafat to rein in more radical Palestinian elements.

But even Peres has stressed the difficulty of totally stamping out attacks in the volatile region, and pointedly called the murder "an exception."

Some in Washington's corridors of power are now likely to feel Israel, which receives \$3 billion in annual aid from the United States, is not doing its bit to help in their anti-terrorism crisis.

By delaying the meeting again, Sharon has given the impression he never wants it to happen, which is not going over well among Arab nations the United States desperately wants on its side right now.

Nor is Sharon's stance being well received by the Palestinians, who inevitably will help determine the future of the peace process.

"As long as (Sharon) is not allowing this meeting, my conclusion is that there is not enough pressure on him" by the United States, Palestinian analyst Ghassan al-Khatib, of the Jerusalem Media and Communication Center, told AFP.

"It seems that there is no pressure. It seems that this is just verbal pressure because if there were real pressure, I don't expect Sharon just to say no to Colin Powell or the president," Khatib said.

"If (the United States) cannot influence the Israelis for such a minor thing, which is the meeting itself, then how can they be consistent with themselves when they say they want to establish a coalition to fight terror and to restore the respect for international law?" he said.

AFP

Salient lessons from past cooperation

DURING the Vietnam war, the Armed Forces of the Philippines sent a contingent of Philcag to help US forces in that country. After his military service in Vietnam, my friend died from a disease confirmed to be from Agent Orange, toxic herbicides used in Vietnam by the US military. Agent Orange has been linked to health consequences due to exposure to it for those who served in Vietnam between 1962 and 1975. Those presumed to have been exposed to Agent Orange are entitled for benefits or disability compensation.

On March 9, 2001, my friend's surviving spouse put in a claim for service-connected disability compensation and dependency and indemnity to the USDVA, but accord-

ing to them, there are no benefits based on the service with the Philcag because service with that organization is not considered service in the Armed Forces of the United States.

We have a lesson there. Now, we are again planning to send our military to support the Armed Forces of the United States to fight terrorists. Before anything else, the Senate and the House of Representatives must show concern for the benefits of our Armed Forces by amending or inserting in the VFA provisions that will ensure that their welfare is assured and protected including all the benefits they are entitled to.—BAYANI B. LABAYOG, Florentino Street, St. Williams Subdivision, Catbangan, San Fernando, La Union

Absolute no to war

PLEASE do not get the Philippines into the turmoil of war.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo would involve us in war if she pursues the following:

- Send military assistance in any form to rally behind the United States.
- Reopen Subic and Clark to US forces.
- Make commitments that provoke retaliation from whoever is considered the enemy.
- Join coalitions detrimental to our national security.

Let the Philippines stand for the principles of justice, peace and integrity of creation, using all our creativity for a non-violent solution to the crisis that faces us and maximizing our prayer power.

God forbid that we contribute to the cycle of violence. Institutionalized economic and military violence instigated the violent attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon for which the United States now pressures countries to join it in its war path. Let us have the strength and uprightness to say absolutely no to war.—WITH FOUR SIGNATORIES, Philippine Province of the Good Shepherd, 1043 Aurora Blvd., Quezon City

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INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) invites interested parties to pre-qualify and submit sealed bids for the public bidding of: (1) supply, and delivery of 207 computers, (2) supply and delivery of laboratory equipment, and (3) janitorial services and security services.

The schedule of the bidding activities is as follows:

For computers and laboratory equipment:

Particulars	Date/Time	Place
Pre-qualification	Sept. 28-Oct. 4/8:30a.m.-5:00 p.m.	SPMO
Issuance of Bid Documents	Oct. 8-11/8:30a.m.-5:00 p.m.	SPMO
Pre-bid conference	Oct. 12, Fri. 10:00 a.m.	SPMO
Opening/submition of bids	Oct. 19, Fri. 10:00 a.m.	SPMO

For Janitorial and Security services:

Particulars	Date/Time	Place
Pre-qualification	Sept. 28-Oct. 11/8:30-5:00 p.m.	SPMO
Issuance of Bid Documents	Oct. 15-18/8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.	SPMO
Pre-bid conference	Oct. 22, Mon. 10:00 a.m.	SPMO
Opening/submition of bids	Oct. 26, Fri. 10:00 a.m.	SPMO

Interested parties may secure the checklist of pre-qualification requirements and submit pre-qualification documents to the Supply and Property Management Office (SPMO).

Only pre-qualified bidders shall be allowed to secure bid documents from SPMO and participate in the bidding process.

The UPLB reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any defect therein and make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the UPLB. The UPLB likewise assumes no obligation for whatever losses that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of the bids, nor does it guarantee that the award shall be made.

(Sgd.) HIDELEZA P. HERNANDEZ, OIC
Chair, PBAC

(PDI - Sept. 28 & 27, 2001)

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY is inviting all Security Agencies duly licensed by the CSG-SAGSD and with a paid-up capital of not less than P1,000,000.00 to bid for the security services requirements of select NHA projects. Pre-qualification documents can be obtained from the BGMSD-GSD OFFICE, G/F NHA Main Office Complex, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City, upon payment of the non-refundable amount of P500.00 starting on October 1, 2001. Deadline for the submission of Pre-C should be on October 8, 2001 not later than 5:00 PM.

All pre-qualified bidders will be notified of the schedule of issuance of bid forms, pre-bid conference and date of bidding.

The NHA reserves the right to waive any required formality or to reject any or all bids and accept the offer considered most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) JOSEPH PETER S. SISON
Chairman
Pre-qualification, Evaluation and Award Committee

(PDI - Sept. 26 & 27, 2001)

SUNRISE POWER COMPANY INC.

INVITATION TO BID

Sunrise Power Company, Inc. invites bids to purchase on an "AS IS WHERE IS" basis, its **22.88 MW Diesel Power Plant** located inside the PPDC complex at Batangas Dos, Mariveles, Bataan.

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- Complete sets of engine auxiliaries, tanks, boilers, meters, and accessory equipment.
- State of the art SIEMENS instrumentation, control, and electrical systems
- Low engine running hours (13,700 to 17,800 Engine Running Hours)
- With spare parts, complete set of tools and machine shop equipment
- Excellent O&M performance history.

Interested parties should send their names and contact details to the **SPCI Bidding Committee** at 20th floor OMM Bldg. San Miguel Ave., Ortigas, Pasig City Tel. no. (02) 633-1626 Fax no. (02) 633-1627, no later than **26 September 2001**.

The WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

WHO: Biological attacks possible

WASHINGTON—The head of the World Health Organization urged governments to prepare for possible biological or chemical attacks by militant organizations seeking to capitalize on the success of deadly suicide attacks

on Sept. 11 on US cities.

"We must prepare for the possibility that people are deliberately harmed with biological or chemical agents," Dr Gro Harlem Brundtland told a meeting of western hemisphere health ministers yesterday here.

Her comments came amid grow-

ing concern in the United States in the wake of the attacks on New York and Washington that terrorists would strike next with biological or chemical agents.

Earlier Monday, Attorney General John Ashcroft confirmed that Mohamed Atta, one of those suspected in the suicide strikes with

hijacked airliners, was acquiring knowledge of crop-dusting aircraft to carry out a chemical attack.

He said the FBI feared such an attack was likely and said security officials nationwide were on alert to prevent it. All flights by crop dusters have been banned until Tuesday.

Brundtland said there was global

capacity and experience to control serious disease outbreaks, but stressed the need to strengthen national contingency plans, particularly in countries where infectious disease outbreaks are rare.

She said the WHO, a specialized UN agency, was ready to assist should nations face such attacks.

"During the last week we have upgraded our procedures for helping countries respond to suspected incidents of deliberate infection," she told the directing council of the Pan-American Health Organization, adding that guidelines for containing disease outbreaks were available on the WHO website. **AFP**

Bin Laden has giant ego, analysts say

LONDON—The signature on Osama bin Laden's statement urging resistance to "American crusader forces" shows a giant ego with a large libido and a thirst for vengeance, according to British hand-writing experts.

A team of graphologists, quoted Tuesday by the Daily Telegraph, said it revealed his motivation for sponsoring terrorism around the world, a rampant ego compensating for possible perceived childhood slights.

"He's obviously got a huge ego. He may suffer from an inferiority complex and is over-compensating through aggression and violence," suggested Caroline Murray, one of the graphologists.

"He seems to have a wish or vengeance against society which he may believe has treated him unfairly."

The signature was at the bottom of a statement faxed to Qatar's Al Jazeera satellite television station.

Bin Laden is chief suspect in the devastating Sept. 11 suicide plane attacks against New York and Washington, which are feared to have killed more than 6,000 people.

Murray cautioned that they had not been able to use normal graphology study techniques, such as analyzing spacing and pressure of strokes.

However, "from what we can see from the faxed copy, he seems to have an above average libido," she told the Daily Telegraph.

"He has to discharge this energy, if it gets too pent up he has to release it and he may go into a frenzy."

AFP

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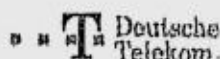


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Is London next? Jittery UK prepares for the worst

LONDON—Is London next?

The chilling headline said it all for the city that survived the wartime blitz by Germany and then lived through a concerted campaign by Irish Republican Army bombers.

Gas mask sales have rocketed, tourists have vanished in droves and architects ponder the wisdom of building more skyscrapers. Big banks have already canceled corporate Christmas parties.

Even the actress daughter of US Secretary of State Colin Powell has been forced to pull out of a London show. Linda Powell's father feared she could become a terrorist target.

With Britain standing shoulder to shoulder with the United States in its "war on terrorism," that has inevitably sparked security fears that London could follow in the wake of New York and Washington.

Police chief John Stevens, who put the British capital on the highest peacetime security alert in its history, was the first to admit: "London is at risk because it is one of the world's major capital cities."

No specific threat has been issued but the authorities are taking no chances. If extremists are ready to use airliners as guided missiles, the unthinkable is now possible.

The nightmare that haunts every disaster planner is a chemical or biological attack, and the World Health Organization has warned Western governments to prepare for possible assaults.

Leading WHO executive David Nabarro said on Tuesday: "Alarm bells are starting to ring. Under these circumstances it would be imprudent not to be thinking at least and planning as hard as possible."

The warning has certainly not fallen on deaf ears.

Britain is reviewing national contingency plans for dealing with deadly anthrax or plague attacks.

"Events in the United States have changed things somewhat and we will be looking at those plans again to ensure the right level of preparedness," said senior health department official Nigel Lightfoot. "The risk is low but the risk is there."

The New York attack showed that indiscriminate (action) on a massive scale is now acceptable to these people and that's a worry," was how one government source graphically portrayed the threat in the Sunday Times.

The paper painted a doomsday scenario of armed troops in full nuclear, biological and chemical suits taking command of the city.

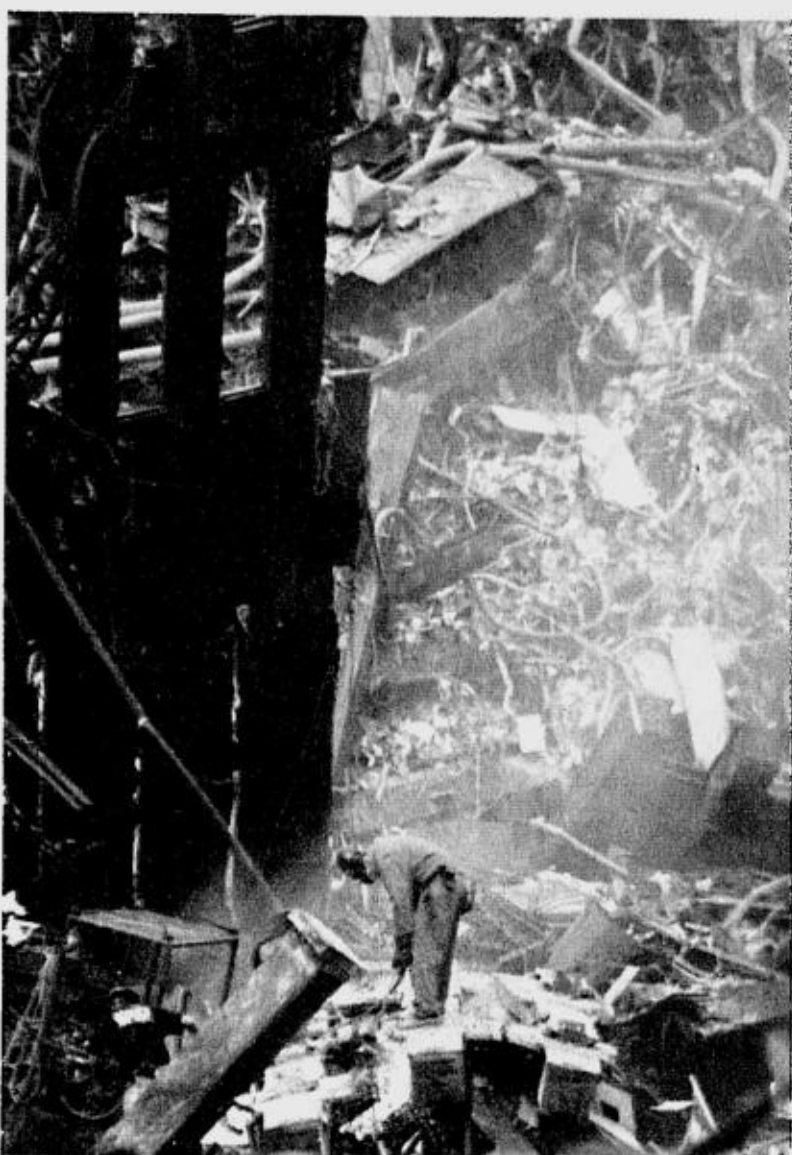
In a bio-chemical attack, Prime Minister Tony Blair would escape in tunnels beneath his Down-

ing Street residence to a Ministry of Defense bunker.

Secret tunnels under London's underground railway system could take up to 8,000 people—but that shelter would be powerless to keep out the deadly effects of a chemical attack.

Up to 250 fire engines could be immediately directed to a bomb site. Every fire fighter is trained to tackle skyscraper blazes.

The "gold control room" at Scotland Yard, London's police headquarters, could tap instantly into CCTV cameras around the city. *Reuters*



A WORKER uses a torch on beams at ground zero of the World Trade Center attack. New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani said Sept. 24, it would be a "miracle" if anyone were still found alive in the rubble. *AFF*

Bush for Nobel—if he manages to avoid war

OSLO—US President George Bush should be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize if he manages to catch those responsible for attacks on the United States without sparking a war, a group of Norwegian academics said on Tuesday.

The 12 university professors and other intellectuals, nominating Bush in the Norwegian daily Dagbladet, said their pacifist proposal aimed to make the world think about ways of solving conflicts without a tit-for-tat escalation of violence.

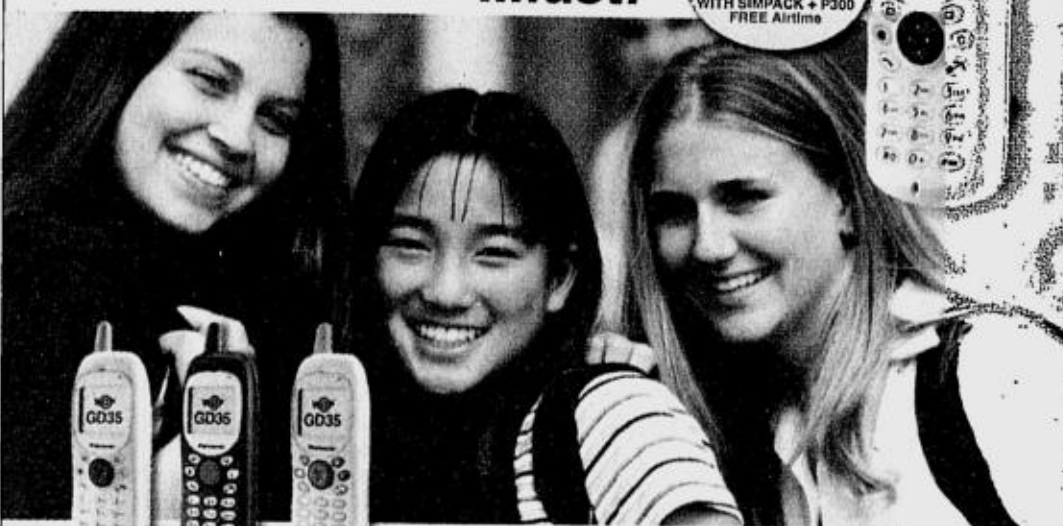
They said Bush should win the prize if he avoids further loss of innocent lives in trying to bring those guilty of the Sept. 11 attacks on New York and Washington to court. Almost 7,000 people are dead or missing.

The winner of the 2001 Nobel Peace Prize will be awarded on Oct. 12. The group, comprising several leading left-wingers, said its nomination was for the 2002 prize—to give time to see how Bush tackles the crisis. *Reuters*

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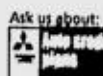
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FBI seeking 400 for questioning on attacks

WASHINGTON—The FBI is seeking nearly 400 people for questioning in the terrorist attacks probe while federal prosecutors build a criminal case involving identification cards for five of the hijackers. One man has been charged.

As the investigation moved forward, a Florida bank president said he had been told that one of the men suspected in the Sept. 11 hijackings of four airliners tried to get a loan from the US Agriculture Department to buy a crop dusting plane.

Attorney General John Ashcroft

told Congress the FBI had gathered information raising fears that crop dusters could be used in a biological or chemical attack.

In the criminal case, the government said Herbert Villalobos accompanied Abdul Aziz Al Omari and Ahmed Saleh Al Ghamdi to a lawyer's office in Virginia on Aug. 2 to help the two suspected hijackers obtain state identity cards.

When shown photos of the hijackers by the FBI, Villalobos recognized three other suspects "believed to have commandeered

American Airlines Flight 77" from Washington Dulles International Airport that crashed into the Pentagon, according to court documents. Villalobos said Hani Hanjour, Salem Al Hazmi and Majed Moqed were at the Arlington, Virginia, office of the state Department of Motor Vehicles on Aug. 2, just as Al Omari and Al Ghamdi were.

"Virginia DMV records... show that all five men did in fact conduct various transactions relating to Virginia identification cards at the Arlington DMV," said a seven-page

affidavit by an FBI agent.

The affidavit did not say whether the five used the IDs to become ticketed passengers aboard the doomed flights, which also crashed in Mohamed Atta, one of the suspected hijackers, sought a USDA loan for a crop duster. The USDA is a tenant in the bank.

"We understand he was turned down" at the USDA "and they referred him to us," said Epling. A loan officer at the bank remembered a phone call from someone inquiring about crop dusters, an unusual

request because there are so few of the planes left in the area, Epling said. Nothing came of the inquiry.

James Lester, an employee of South Florida Crop Care in Belle Glade, told the FBI that Atta was among the men who in groups of two or three visited the crop dusting firm nearly every weekend for six or eight weeks before the attacks.

Crop dusters weren't the only concern.

In Michigan the president of a truck driving school confirmed two men arrested last week had attended

the school and one of them obtained a permit to transport hazardous materials.

Karim Koubriti, 23, and Ahmed Hannan, 33, taken into custody Sept. 17, attended the US Truck Driver Training School in Detroit this summer, said the school's president, Joseph LaBarge. Koubriti passed the state commercial drivers license exam on Aug. 22 and received a permit to transport hazardous materials. Hannan failed the road test, LaBarge said.

AP

Israel's Peres notes clear drop in Palestinian violence

JERUSALEM—Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres on Tuesday reported a "clear drop in Palestinian violence" in the past three weeks, saying the lull should clear the way for talks with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

"There have been no car bombs or suicide attacks in Israel for three weeks, and I have noted a clear drop in Palestinian violence," said the dovish minister, who has been given the green light to meet Arafat only after 48 hours of total calm.

"We are in the Middle East. It is a region with a lot of extremists and it is difficult to reach a situation where there is no incident. I am trying to seal a ceasefire deal in extremely difficult conditions, working night and day to make sure there are no more innocent victims," he said on public radio.

The insistence by Israel's Prime Minister Ariel Sharon on 48 hours of calm—which he says is necessary to avoid being dragged into negotiating under fire—has already led to the much-anticipated meeting being canceled four times, Peres said.

After yet another possible meeting was canceled Monday because hardline Palestinian gunmen killed an Israeli woman, Arafat was due to set off for a summit in Syria to thaw two decades of frosty relations with Damascus.

"The Americans are demanding that this (Arafat-Peres) meeting should take place. So why not?" the foreign minister asked.

Despite the ceasefire declared by Arafat last week, the radio said there had been at least "20 armed incidents provoked by the Palestinians in the last 24 hours."

Peres also brushed aside comments by Sharon and right-wing ministers comparing Arafat to Osama bin Laden, the prime suspect for the terror attacks against the United States.

"Bin Laden transformed God into a creature of death. It's true that Arafat made use of terrorism in the past, but he has renounced it," he said.

Peres said it would be a "mistake to declare war on the Palestinian Authority and the Palestinian people, since there are 3.5 million Palestinians with whom we have to co-exist."

In the United Nations, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan on Monday called Israel's new military zone in occupied Palestinian territory a provocative act that could only undermine efforts to find a way out of the conflict.

"The creation of such a zone will impose additional restrictions on the Palestinians' movement," Annan said, according to his chief spokesperson, Fred Eckhard.

Adding to the tense climate since clashes broke out a year ago, the Israeli Army said it had set up closed military zones in the northern West Bank on Monday to try to prevent Palestinians from crossing illegally into Israel, a move Palestinians branded as "racist."

AFP and Reuters



POPE John Paul II watches a girl wearing a traditional Kazakh dress during an open air Mass celebrated in central Astana Sept. 23.

AFP

Pope urges greater effort at 'harmony'

ASTANA, Kazakhstan—Pope John Paul II called on the young people of Kazakhstan on Tuesday to intensify their efforts at "dialogue and harmony," and said this nation in turbulent Central Asia knew the urgency of peace.

The Pope used each appearance of his four-day trip here to call for peace, amid alarm over the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and the US military buildup for retaliatory strikes. While Kazakhstan does not share a border with Afghanistan, where suspected terrorist mastermind Osama bin Laden is based, its leaders are concerned about the threat of extremism in the region and a possible influx of refugees in the event of war.

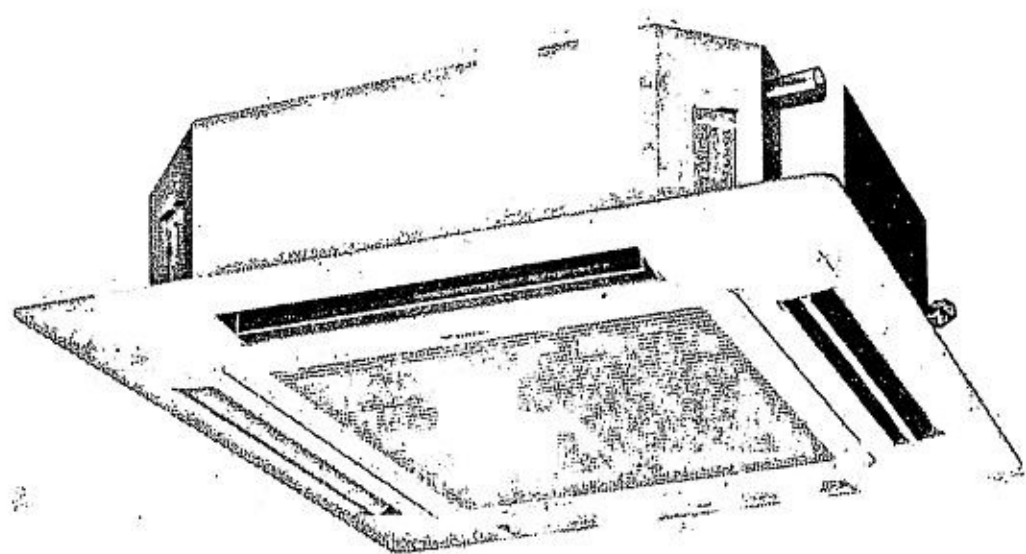
"Be ready to promote peace, so often threatened by the specter of catastrophic wars," the Pope said. "Be vigilant watchmen, committed to respect for the life of every human being."

He also paid tribute to Kazakhstan's record of interethnic harmony, and called on young people to make a "renewed commitment" to it.

"Because of your geographical position, you are a frontier land and a land of encounter. Here, in these endless steppes, men and women of different races, cultures and religions have met and continue to meet in peace," he said.

AP

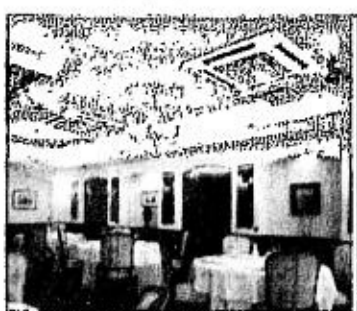
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Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern Luzon will experience stormy weather while the rest of Northern Luzon will have rains and gusty winds. Coastal waters over these areas will be rough to very rough. The Western sections of Luzon and Visayas will be cloudy with occasional rains and the rest of the country will have cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 24°
Baguio	Rains and Gusty Winds	HI 21° Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Rains and Gusty Winds	HI 27° Lo 22°
Laog	Rains and Gusty Winds	HI 27° Lo 24°
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 24°
Tegaytay	Cloudy with Rains	HI 27° Lo 21°
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 25°
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 24°
Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 24°
Roxas	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 25°
Cebu	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 25°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy with Rains	HI 33° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 24°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 24°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/09/26/01

ROUNDUP

Dog slaughter rejected

MATI, Davao Oriental—Provincial health officer Crisuldo Malintad rejected calls here for a mass slaughter of stray dogs to check the spread of rabies. Earlier, Gov. Maria Elena Palma Gil urged mayors to adopt the measure to "effectively" stop the spread of rabies, noting that treatment was costly for the government. This year, she said, about P2 million has been spent to treat at least 60 cases of dog bites. A vaccine costs P30,000. Malintad said the proposal to catch and kill stray dogs could result in violations of animal rights.

Ferdinand Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau

47 GROs nabbed

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Policemen raided seven karaoke bars and arrested 47 women working as guest relations officers (GROs) on Friday and Saturday, as part of this city's campaign against lewd shows. The police team raided karaoke bars along the Gapan-San Fernando-Olongapo road in Barangay Dolores, and in four other city villages. The arrested women were found working without health and other permits.

Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Illegal fishing rampant

MALOLOS, Bulacan—Residents have complained of increased illegal fishing activities by fishermen from nearby coastal areas who encroach on municipal waters. During a series of *bantay dagat* (sea patrol) operations last month, members of the Maritime Command, police and village officials arrested 27 illegal fishers from Malabon and Navotas in Metro Manila, from Obando, Bulacan, and from Limay, Bataan. Fishermen in the coastal village of Pamarawan here said they have caught little fish because of the intrusion of illegal fishermen from Bataan, Pampanga and Metro Manila.

Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Bicol dengue cases rise

DARAGA, Albay—Health officials in Bicol have expressed alarm over the increase in the number of dengue fever cases during the past few weeks. Since January, dengue cases have already reached 698 or double last year's figure. Statistics at the Department of Health showed that of the 698 cases, 432 were reported in Camarines Sur, the highest among the six Bicol provinces and seven cities. Gerardo Bayugo, DOH regional head, said an outbreak occurred in Sorsogon, but no death has so far been reported.

Rey Nasol, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Cebu councilor resigns

CEBU CITY—Second-term Councilor Firmo Dayao resigned from the city council effective Monday noon for health reasons. Dayao submitted his "irrevocable" letter of resignation to Vice Mayor Michael Rama, presiding officer of the council. Attached with the letter was a copy of a medical certificate issued by Dr. Gerry Tan showing that Dayao has diabetes. Dayao belongs to the opposition Kugi Uswag Sugbo (Kusog) of ex-Mayor Alvin Garcia, arch-rival of Mayor Tomas Osmeña.

Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau

Oust-Lacson group formed

ROXAS CITY—The son of ex-Philippine National Police chief Roberto Lastimosa and three provincial board members formed the Lacson Resign! Movement in Capiz amid allegations that Sen. Panfilo Lacson was involved in criminal activities. But Rommel Lastimosa said he helped form the LRM not to get back at Lacson, who is at odds with his father. Board members Cesar Talabucon, Ricky Martin and Gilbert Ardivilla, along with leaders of several advocacy groups, formed the LRM chapter on Sept. 17.

Gerry Pagharion, PDI Visayas Bureau



'PISTAHAN' GUEST

Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez receives a memento from Brig. Gen. Rodolfo Alvarado, chief of the Army's 5th Infantry Division, as guest of honor and speaker during the command's "Pistahan sa Kabundukan" on Sept. 7.

Kidnapped trader escapes

DAVAO CITY—A businessman escaped from his abductors a day after he was abducted by two armed men here on Sunday evening.

Christian Cuizon, 43, son of the owner of the defunct Cuizon Hotel, was recovered by members of the Special Task Group-Mindanao Area Office (STAG-MAO) at dawn yesterday in Barangay Binugao in Toril District.

Cuizon's family declined to have the victim presented to journalists.

Chief Supt. Eduardo Matillano, police chief for Southern Mindanao, said Cuizon was in his car with his wife and children around 11:30 p.m. Sunday on their way home when an unidentified man blocked their path.

As Cuizon was about to leave the car to confront the stranger, another man wielding a gun appeared from behind and ordered the businessman to stay in the vehicle with them.

The kidnappers ordered Cuizon to head

for Toril, where the victim's wife and children were told to disembark.

Matillano said Cuizon and his captors stayed at a forested area in Barangays Quiboloy and Baracatan in Toril. One of the kidnappers tried to contact Cuizon's family through a mobile cellular phone and demand a P1.5-million ransom.

The family reportedly asked the kidnappers to reduce the amount, agreeing on P300,000.

As the negotiation was going on, Cuizon's guard reportedly fell asleep, giving the victim a chance to escape around 9 p.m. Monday. Cuizon was able to reach the house of a village official.

Matillano said investigators were still trying to establish the identities of the kidnappers, whom they considered "small-time."

In Cotabato City, Mayor Muslimin Sema assured the public on Tuesday that the two remaining Chinese hostages were "very much alive."

Sema allayed fears of the victims' relatives and officials of the Chinese Embassy following the execution of two other Chinese nationals by their kidnappers on Aug. 19 in Columbio, Sultan Kudarat.

Sema said he was "100-percent sure" that the victims, Wang Zhongli and Edward "Edwin" Lim "are very much alive."

"It's just a matter of time," Sema said of the hostages' freedom.

The kidnappers are reportedly members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front "lost command" who call themselves the "Pentagon" kidnap gang.

The group has managed to elude government forces scouring villages near the Liguasan Marsh in Maguindanao and Sultan Kudarat, Sema said.

Bid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson, said the kidnappers were not MILF members but bandits.

MILF Chair Salamat Hashim has offered help to rescue the Chinese hostages, "but

the government refused the MILF's use of force," Kabalu said.

MILF field commanders were ordered to facilitate the release of the victims, Kabalu said. Salamat also directed his men not to give refuge to kidnappers and bandits in their camps.

Sema, a former leader of the Moro National Liberation Front, said his men were monitoring the movement of the kidnappers who were demanding an P8-million ransom.

But the mayor insisted on the government's "no-ransom policy."

"We will not give in to their monetary demand," he said.

Zhongli and Lim were seized in Datu Paglas, Maguindanao, while negotiating for the release of Zhang Zhongquang, a Chinese engineer whose company undertook the construction of the P2.7-billion Malitubog-Maridagao (Malmar) irrigation project in Carmen, North Cotabato.

Zhang was one of the two Chinese killed by the kidnappers when soldiers tried to rescue them in Sultan Kudarat. *Anthony Allada and Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

ALAMIN AT UNAWAIN!

Bakit kailangang
i-reporma
ang industriya ng
kuryente?

Ano ang
kuneksyon
nito sa
buhay mo?

MAHAL ANG KURYENTE, MAHAL DIN ANG BILIHIN

Mahal ang presyo ng kuryente dito sa atin kaya naman mahal din ang mga bilihin. Ito rin ang dahilan kung bakit hirap na makipagsabayang ang mga industriya natin sa mga taga-ibang bansa.

ANO ANG MAGAGAWA NG EIRA PARA MABAGO ANG GANITONG SITWASYON?

Ang Electric Power Industry Reform Act o EIRA ay naglalayon na baguhin ang istruktura ng power industry dito sa bansa upang magkaroon ng mas mababang presyo at mas magandang serbisyo sa industriya. Papayagan ang kumpetisyon sa power generation at supply. Mananatiling regulated naman ang transmission at distribution sectors upang proteksyonang ang mga consumers. Sa pamamagitan ng paghahati-hati ng mga planta ng National Power Corporation (Napocor) sa mas maliit na grupo at sa pag-aalok ng mga ito sa mga pribadong kumpanya, makakaasang mas magkakaroon ng makabuluhang kumpetisyon sa sektor ng elektrisidad. Makakapili ka maging ng supplier ng kuryente pagdating ng panahon.

MAHALAGA ANG KUMPETISYON

Mahalaga ito dahil ito ang nagsisilbing bala sa inaasahang "price war" na mangyayari sa industriya. Isang halimbawa ang sektor ng telekomunikasyon na ngayon ay nagpapababaan ng presyo sa mga long distance at overseas calls.

Ganito rin ang naranasan ng mga bansang nagsulong ng reporma sa kanilang mga industriyang pang-elektrisidad.

Kapag bumaba ang presyo ng kuryente, kasunod din nito ang pagbaba ng halaga ng mga pangunahing bilihin.

Noong Hunyo, nagsimula nang magbaba ng 30 sentimos kada kWh ang Napocor sa singil ng kuryente sa mga residential consumers. Ito ay patuloy na ibibigay ng Napocor bawat buwan.

NGUNIT ANG PAGBABAGO AY DI MADALIAN

Ang EIRA ay hindi pangmadalian na solusyon. Ang pagbabago sa industriya ay nangangailangan ng mahabang proseso. Umabot ng halos pitong taon ang pagre-reporma ng industriya sa telekomunikasyon ngunit ngayon pa lamang natin nararamdaman ang mga benepisyo nito.

Bilang paghahanda, ang Department of Energy ay mangunguna sa serye ng public consultations ukol sa Draft Implementing Rules and Regulations ng EIRA. Ang mga public consultations ay gaganapin sa mga sumusunod na lugar at petsa.

SEARSOLIN, Cagayan De Oro City \ Iligan	Sept. 20 - 21
Ateneo de Davao University, Davao City	Oct. 4 - 5
University of the Philippines, Tacloban City	Oct. 4 - 5
St. Louis University, Baguio City (tentative)	Oct. 8 - 9
Ateneo de Naga University, Naga City	Oct. 8 - 9
University of San Carlos, Cebu City	Oct. 15 - 16
Ateneo de Manila University, Quezon City (tentative)	Oct. 15 - 16

Makakatulong ka dito.

Ang Electric Power Industry Reform Act ay mahalaga sa buhay at kinabukasan natin. Ating alamin at unawain.



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MESSAGES



IT IS WITH great pleasure that I convey my warmest felicitations to the men and women of the National Food Authority (NFA) on their 29th Anniversary.

Integral to our vision to provide a better life for the Filipino people is the sustainable supply of food that is accessible to the disadvantaged sectors of our society. In this regard, my Administration has incorporated food security as the key of our program to eradicate poverty within the decade. We firmly believe that a nation with food sufficiency is a nation that is stable, healthy and progressive.

On this memorable day in the history of the NFA, we recognize anew the role of the agency in our quest for a prosperous and progressive Philippines. Consequently, I pose a challenge to the officials and employees of the organization for a more relevant, responsive and dynamic NFA. May the agency continue to undertake worthy programs in support of our Administration's national development agenda.

While we continue to consider positive inputs on the agency's corporate set up and orientation, I commit my full support to the various programs of the agency for our farmers, grains businessmen and rice-consuming public.

Let us continue our partnership in ensuring that food reaches the table of every Filipino family.

Mabuhay!

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines



WARMEST greetings to the management and staff of the National Food Authority on the occasion of your 29th year of service to the Filipino nation.

As a member of the Department of Agriculture family, the NFA plays a pivotal role in the implementation of the food security and pro-poor programs of the Macapagal-Arroyo Administration, catering to the agency's three major clientele — the farmers, consumers and grains businessmen.

For the farmers, the DA-NFA implements grains procurement and post harvest facility assistance programs. It provides consumers better access to low-priced and good quality rice, and exerts efforts to achieve order and harmony among local grains businessmen.

As you commemorate your 29th anniversary in simple but meaningful rites, I assure you of the DA's full support in the performance of your mandate, which is currently being reviewed to keep the NFA attuned with the changing times. Overall, we remain confident of your relentless dedication to serve our fellow Filipinos in their quest for sufficient food on their dinner tables.

Congratulations and more power.
Mabuhay!

Leonardo Q. Montemayor
LEONARDO Q. MONTEMAYOR
Secretary
Department of Agriculture



TODAY, the National Food Authority family commemorates the agency's 29th year of service to the country in austere but meaningful ceremonies.

For almost three decades now, the NFA continues to be at the forefront of the government's food security and pro-poor programs. It implements grains procurement and distribution programs to service the needs of our grains producers, businessmen and consumers — ensuring stability in the price and supply of our basic staples, especially rice.

While demands of the times change, calling for more responsive action by our government institutions, NFA's resolve remains steadfast and its commitment firm to better serve our people.

Therefore, on this momentous day in NFA's history, the whole organization vows to fully support the programs of the government in the area of food security following the vision of the administration's war against poverty.

Happy anniversary.

ANTHONY R.A. ABAD
Administrator
National Food Authority



NFA AT 29

A time to relearn, reinvent, and intensify the mandate

NATIONAL Food Authority Administrator Anthony R. A. Abad understands that NFA is full of different objectives, and the agency tends to be pulled in different directions. He also knows that at the end of the day, it still boils down to NFA's one most important objective—food security and stability of supply and prices of staple food.

Six months into his term as administrator of NFA, has taken concrete steps to realize these goals, while admitting that he's still in the learning period.

He stresses the NFA needs to be more focused in its job with the ultimate purpose that its efforts would translate into cheaper prices and adequate supply of food all-year round for all Filipinos in all income classes.

"We have to deal with a lot of problems right away like importation and bidding, but one thing we saw to was to conduct ourselves with as much transparency as possible," Abad says.

He stresses that NFA has even opened to auction and open bidding the importation of rice. NFA has also exercised the option to go into direct negotiation.

"Because of that we were able to achieve historically the lowest price for rice at \$145 per metric ton," explains Abad.

"We have also put in a lot of prudent management measures to minimize the losses. Aside from that we have also embarked in comprehensive review of the structure of the NFA," Abad says.

He adds that there is a need to restructure the NFA so its units could be given more autonomy and would function with more flexibility.

Other steps that the NFA has taken include the fielding of "Tindahan ni Gloria Labandera" rolling stores for people in depressed areas. The agency's target is to field 1,000 stores up to the end of the year.

The rolling stores have been fur-



PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo hands over a passbook to a farmer-beneficiary of the Targeted Rice Distribution Program (TRDP) of the NFA. Passbooks are given to selected beneficiaries to provide direct access to rice and other prime commodities at subsidized prices. The program is a joint effort of the Department of Social Welfare and Development under Secretary Dinky Soliman, (second from right); Department of Interior and Local Government-Local Government Unit under Secretary Jose Lina, (third from left, seated); and NFA under Administrator Abad. Looking on at right is Secretary Mike Defensor, seated.

ther expanded with the inclusion of other basic commodities the stores carry aside from rice. These outlets aim to provide access to relatively low-priced rice and other basic commodities including sugar, noodles, milk, cooking oil, sardines and coffee.

He says that the agency also wants to encourage closer coordination with established retailers for the distribution of rice. "We have a whole network of rice retailers all over the country. We want to tap their services in the distribution of rice."

"We're also adopting new technology, in cooperation with Israel, for rice storage without using chemicals; keeping it fresh up to

two years," Abad relates.

He explains that this is important because the agency would be able to maintain a buffer stock over longer periods without the need for constantly buying and selling just to maintain the buffer stock. This would comprise the national security aspect of food security.

Abad sees the NFA to become an efficient manager of food security in the country.

"This would entail more technologically advanced means of storing rice and other perishable products and more responsive logistics for the fast movement of food staples in the country," he says.

Incidentally, Abad says the NFA would also end up helping the farm-

ers through procurement and post-harvest facilities, those who are engaged in trading and warehousing operations, and even in transportation like trucking.

"I have bright prospects for the industry as I want the rice sector to be market-oriented, that food staples, especially rice, to be cheaper and freely available. At the same time, I hope that the farmers would adopt new technologies, new techniques that would help them increase their production so that they would also be participants in the food security effort of the government besides turning a profit. Our farmers are still poor because the margins are so low. We want to break this situation," he concludes.



ADMINISTRATOR Abad shares with officials of the Philippine Grains Industry Council ideas to improve the grains sector industry. With him are some NFA and PGIC officials.

A day of 'rolling out' primary services

THE NATIONAL Food Authority celebrates its 29th founding anniversary today.

NFA Administrator Anthony R. A. Abad will lead simple yet meaningful rites with this year's theme "NFA at Industriya ng Butil, Magkabalik sa Pagtugon sa Seguridad sa Pagkain, Pangangalaga sa Kapaligiran at Hamon ng Globalisasyon."

The whole NFA workforce joins the commemoration as Abad cited the agency's firm resolve and unwavering commitment in the delivery of services to the people toward the ultimate goal of sufficient food for all Filipinos.

One of the highlights of the festivities is President Macapagal-Arroyo's leading the fielding and actual operation of the "Tindahan ni Gloria Labandera" rolling stores in Balut, Tondo and Uugong, Pasig City as part of the Grains Industry Week which runs from Sept. 20-26.

Other activities related to the NFA's anniversary celebration are a thanksgiving Mass, a prayer for unity, a week-long tiangge at the agency's central office in Quezon City, blood-letting by the agency's executives and rank-and-file employees as well as a clean-up program under the government's productivity and development management program.

Awards will also be handed to winners in sports competitions and NFA outstanding employees and service recipients.

The National Food Authority was created as the National Grains Authority (NGA) through Presidential Decree No. 4 on Sept. 26, 1972. Its original mandate was to promote the integrated growth and development of the grains industry, covering rice, com,

feedgrains and other grains like sorghum, munggo and peanut.

On Jan. 14, 1981, the NGA was transformed into the National Food Authority through Presidential Decree No. 1770, empowering it with a wider commodity coverage to include, in addition to grains, other food items like raw or fresh and manufactured, processed or packaged food products.

But on May 31, 1985, Executive Order 1028 was issued, calling for the deregulation of the production and trading of food products undertaken by all government agencies, including NFA. This resulted in the termination of NFA's non-grains trading activities and the privatization of feedgrains importation, among others.

In 1986, NFA was reorganized under the Aquino administration. Efforts were geared toward achieving four missions namely: stabilization, marketing development, industry regulation and corporate administration.

When the Department of Agriculture was reorganized in 1987, the NFA was transferred from the Office of the President to the Department of Agriculture as an attached agency by virtue of Executive Order No. 116. This was done to respond to policy changes with emphasis on private sector participation toward a free market-oriented enterprise economy and the trend toward liberalization, privatization and deregulation.

The NFA's exclusive authority to import rice while restoring its prerogative to allocate import quotas of rice to local importers in cases of production shortfalls was reiterated by virtue of Republic Act No. 8178 known as the Agricultural Tariffication Act of March 27, 1996.

Abad sees the NFA to become an efficient manager of food security in the country



CONSUMERS in depressed and remote communities buy NFA rice and other commodities from a Tindahan ni Gloria Labandera rolling store.



AN NFA warehouse supervisor oversees weighing of 'palay' produce of farmers in a remote barangay in Allacapan, Cagayan. The warehouse serves local farmers in the area for procurement and storage purposes.

REMOTE barangays as well as islands are served by NFA for their rice needs. Tindahan ni Gloria Labandera sa Bangka, as shown here, sells NFA rice and other commodities at reasonable prices.



FARMERS are given priority access to NFA's storage, milling, drying, threshing, transporting and weighing facilities at reasonable rates. Some 45 farm level grains centers (FLGC) nationwide have been established by NFA which can each accommodate up to 10,000 bags, equipped with basic administrative and post-harvest facilities. Meanwhile, some 36 municipal level grains centers (MLGC) are being constructed nationwide with solar drying pavements to serve as temporary depot and trading centers for farmers' produce.

'Labuyo' swipes North, causes landslides, floods

TYPHOON "Labuyo" (international name: Lekima) swiped northern Philippines on Tuesday, knocking out power and raising the prospect of floods, according to disaster monitoring agencies.

A national road connecting Ilocos Norte and Cagayan Valley has been closed to public transport since Monday due to massive landslides spawned by heavy rains.

Packing maximum winds of 160 kilometers per hour, Labuyo passed over Batanes, disrupting electric supply throughout the province and swelling rivers in northern Luzon.

There were, however, no immediate reports of casualties or damage.

As of 4 a.m. Tuesday, Labuyo was charted about 180 km north of Aparri town in Cagayan, moving northwest at 7 kph toward southern Taiwan.

Typhoon Signal No. 3 has been hoisted over Batanes and other nearby islands, while Signal No. 2 is in effect over northern Luzon.

In Laoag City, the Department of Public Works and Highways began clearing operations on Tuesday morning and assured motorists that the Caunayan-Calbaryo road in Pagudpud town, which connects Ilocos Norte to Sta. Praxedes in Cagayan will be open to traffic today.

Another national road in Barangay Caruan in Pasuquin town was reported impassable due to floods.

Reports from disaster response agencies in Ilocos Norte also showed that a landslide hit a village road in Vintar town that displaced at least one family.

Residents living near the Padsan River dike moved their children and belongings to safe grounds on Monday night due to threats of an overflow.

The Laoag City engineering office reported that heavy rains caused the Padsan River to swell and threaten to spill over to the nearby communities.

City engineer Uldarito Root, quoting reports from villagers, said the swollen river was short of reaching a half-meter mark on Monday night before it could

spill past the river dike.

Classes in elementary and high schools in the province have been suspended since Monday after the typhoon remained stationary over the Ilocos and northern Cagayan Valley.

In Carasi town, Mayor Albert Carte said portions of Sitio Panpaniqui in Barangay Barbaqueso were flooded after the Sinaligan River overflowed.

Barangays Darasdas and Talugtog in Solsona town were also flooded.

In Currimao town, 13 fishermen from Pagudpud and Claveria, Cagayan, who went fishing were found stranded in the shore of Barangay Pangil.

PO1 Isidro Ruiz of the Currimao police said four fishermen from Claveria went to sea on Sept. 21, but their boat was destroyed by strong winds brought about by the typhoon.

In Baguio City, the Office of Civil Defense ordered the closure of the Halsema Highway on Tuesday morning following a landslide along the stretch of Kilometer 58 in Buguias, Benguet.

OCD Cordillera Director Victor Tomazar said they were scheduled to open the road section on Tuesday afternoon after clearing operations supervised by the DPWH.

Tomazar also ordered the closure of Kennon Road on Monday after strong rains brought about by the typhoon buffeted the Cordillera.

Marcos Highway and Naguilan Road, major routes leading to Baguio City, remain open to traffic but were placed under close monitoring for possible landslides.

Tomazar said Labuyo's strong winds also toppled electric posts and power transmission lines in Apayao, causing a province-wide power outage since Monday night.

"Our policemen in Apayao are operating using battery-powered lamps . . . (but) all roads leading to the province are open," he said. *Reports from AFP and Cristina Arzadon, Kira Espino and Jovelyn Reyes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Cops blame NPA rebs for killing

CAMP GENERAL ALEJO SANTOS, Bulacan—Police officials ruled out involvement of military and police in the Sept. 20 killing of a Bayan Muna leader in San Miguel town.

Senior Supt. Edgardo Acuña, provincial police director, said their initial investigation showed that Wilfredo Mananghaya, also a councilor of Barangay Sibul in San Miguel, was killed by New People's Army rebels because he supposedly refused to work with them again.

Mananghaya was district coordinator of the party-list group Bayan Muna in Bulacan and chair of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) chapter in San Miguel.

Acuña belied claims of the Alyansa ng Mamamayan para sa Makataong Karapatan that members of the

Army's 1st Scout Ranger regiment and the 56th Infantry Battalion were behind the killing.

"(That's) wrong information," he said, adding that the military and the police have no reason to kill Mananghaya.

Acuña said the manner of Mananghaya's killing was similar to that used by NPA assassins.

Three motorcycle-riding men gunned down Mananghaya on Sept. 20 at Barangay Tartaro in San Miguel. He died from three bullet wounds in the head and nape.

Student activists, tricycle drivers and members of Bayan Muna and other groups are set to stage a protest march in San Miguel on Sept. 27 during Mananghaya's burial. *Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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INQUIRER *Northern Luzon*

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Building a 'Rainbow Nation'

Kidlat, Mandela share metaphor in understanding world

BY MAURICE MALANES
Baguio City

FILMMAKER Kidlat Tahimik and former South African President Nelson Mandela have something in common. Both refer to the rainbow as a metaphorical tool in understanding the world.

The filmmaker, who prefers to spend most of his time teaching filmmaking to indigenous folk in Hapao village in Hungduan, Ifugao, should have made a contagious impact had he been at the recent United Nations World Conference Against Racism (WCAR) in Durban, South Africa.

Kidlat could have shown his film, "Why is Yellow the Center of the Rainbow," and explained why the rainbow has varied colors.

And Mandela, as one in the audience, could have smiled in deep appreciation because he himself had envisioned a post-apartheid South Africa as a "true Rainbow Nation where every one, whether colored or white, can live in harmony and equality in opportunity."

The rainbow is an appropriate metaphor for diversity—one of the many important agenda put forward in the Aug. 31-Sept. 8 WCAR in Durban.

The declaration and program of action born out of Durban seeks to help combat racism by seeking, among other things, to "build a world community built around respect for cultural diversity," UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and WCAR secretary general Mary Robinson, had said in Durban.

Diversity was also the catchword among civil society activists who trooped to Durban just as "sustainable development" was the catchphrase that evolved out of the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Cost of intolerance

Much of the content of the WCAR declaration is based on the old principle of "unity in diversity."

The declaration has acknowledged that the non-acceptance of or intolerance to diversity has caused most of the racism, discrimination and xenophobia (hatred or disdain for anyone or anything foreign) in various parts worldwide ever since the colonial era.

In the colonial era, the colonizers sought to integrate into the colonized mainstream society the "pagan natives" or "cultural/national minorities" and mold them into the colonizers' mindsets.

Using both "hard" (militarization) and "soft" (education and Christianization) approaches, the colonizers' goal was homogenization, the op-



TAHIMIK

posite of diversity.

The colonizers succeeded, but at a heavy price on the part of the colonized. In the Philippines, scores from Northern Luzon's Igorot homeland to Mindanao's Moroland were killed for resisting integration and colonization.

Other delegates in Durban, like the descendants of North America's Indians and of Africa's victims of the Trans-Atlantic slave trade, told of the same, if not worse, sufferings.

Until in recent years, intolerance to diversity or pluralism has led to "ethnic cleansing," which, in turn, has led to genocidal killings from across Asia to Africa and Bosnia.

Agents of diversity

Among the acknowledged agents of cultural diversity are the world's over 300 million indigenous peoples, who have maintained much of their cultural heritage despite the inroads of Western civilization and Hollywood which, in one way or another, homogenized or is in the process of homogenizing the world's culture.

The Philippines alone has an estimated 15 million indigenous peoples or about one-fifth of the country's population. And they have maintained their distinct culture and traditional knowledge, such as their indigenous medicine and sustainable farming systems.



MANDELA

It is thus not surprising that the Durban declaration recognizes the role of indigenous peoples in helping bring "cultural pluralism" to the world at large.

The declaration's Paragraph 48, for example, recognizes "the value and diversity of the cultures and the heritage of indigenous peoples" which, it said, helped develop many societies through "cultural pluralism."

The same paragraph recognizes that indigenous peoples must fully participate "in all aspects of society," particularly on issues that concern them because these, according to the declaration, are "fundamental for political and social stability, and for the development of the States in which they (indigenous peoples) live."

National policies

Recognizing the role of indigenous peoples in helping bring diversity to the world and the long history of discrimination they suffered under colonialism, the declaration devoted substantial provisions in promoting indigenous peoples' rights.

Paragraphs 47 to 53 of the Durban declaration, for example, were not only devoted to recognizing indigenous peoples' rights. They also ensure and guarantee that indigenous peoples can exercise those rights and be free from all forms of discrimination.

But UN international declarations remain good only on paper unless implemented on the ground, say UN officials.

"Our real success is what happens after the WCAR," conference president Dr. Nkosazana Olamim Zuma of South Africa had said. "Real work begins after Durban."

Saying she wanted indigenous peoples "empowered" by the Durban declaration, Robinson stressed that UN member-countries were expected to draw up "national plans of action" to give flesh to what was agreed upon in the South African convention capital.

For the indigenous peoples in the Philippines, the country's ambassador to the UN, Samuel Ramel, in a statement to the WCAR, took pride in the Philippine Constitution.

The Charter, he said, recognizes indigenous peoples' rights to their ancestral land and domain, including rights to self-governance and to use their justice systems, conflict resolution institutions, peace-building processes, and other customary laws and practices.

Ramel did not mention it, but the Philippines also has the Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act of 1997, which paved the way for the creation of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), the body mandated to implement the new law.

But rocked by politicking since its inception, alleged corruption by some top officials and lack of funds, the NCIP has yet to get its acts together to really serve the concerns and welfare of indigenous peoples.

Hope from grassroots

Despite the odds, some indigenous peoples have proved that they could do something on their own, even amid the NCIP's failings. The Kankana-ey-Bago folk of Bakun, Benguet, are one example.

Through their grassroots organization, the Bakun Indigenous Tribes Organization, the Kankana-ey and Bago folk, after they were awarded their Certificate of Ancestral Domain Claim in 1997, have made strides in drawing out visions and laying out mechanisms on how to manage and utilize their ancestral domain and resources.

On the cultural sphere, the Kankana-ey and Bago folk have drawn up plans on how to push for the integration of the local culture in the curriculums of the upland town's schools.

Some Benguet educators have similarly embarked on efforts to help integrate indigenous culture and knowledge in school curriculums. Retired Benguet State University (BSU) Prof. Evelyn Dimas, for example, coordinated with teachers of the BSU high school the recent launching of the Kankana-ey School of Living Traditions (KSLT).

The idea behind the KSLT is to revive the positive aspects of Kankana-ey culture and share these to the world, says Dimas.

She cites the strong sense of community spirit and cooperation among the Kankana-ey folk, which is present when they build or repair a house, plant and harvest rice, or when they hold religious festivities to honor *Kabunian* (Supreme Being), the spirits and their ancestors.

Through the KSLT, "living masters" of the Kankana-ey culture such as the *manunong* (traditional priest or priestess) and masters of traditional dances and music are invited to directly teach BSU high school students, Dimas says.

And beyond the songs and dances and ways of worship are cultural values, such as the Kankana-ey folk's strong sense of ethics based on the strong belief of the prevalence of good over evil. This, BSU high school teacher Imelda Kibla-Gamboa says, must also be revived and taught to students.

Such cultural revival, according to advocates, will help weave a web of diversity-based cultural pluralism in the country in the same way that the mix of multifaceted colors is what makes the rainbow. Such efforts indeed help breathe life into what has been debated and agreed upon in Durban.

Mining tunnels off-limits to women

BY FRANK CIMATU
Benguet

LAST month, Lepanto Mining Consolidated Corp. tried to reconsider an unofficial policy banning women from entering its mine tunnels in Mankayan, Benguet, citing gender discrimination, among other things.

But none of the officials wanted to be responsible for instigating the lifting of the ban, press relations officer Flor Fajilan said.

"They don't want to tempt fate," Fajilan said.

The events leading to the banning of women inside the Lepanto mines were incredibly eerie, she said.

For one, Lepanto president Artemio Disini admitted that he was responsible for the office order banning women from the tunnels in 1978.

During that time, some members of the United States-based National Basketball Association came to play with Filipino players in Manila.

Because the Philippine Basketball Association at that time was headed by Carlos Palanca Jr., a member of the Lepanto board, an invitation was made to the NBA superstars to visit Mankayan.

Instead, it was the PBA board members who came, together with their wives. The entourage decided to visit the mine tunnels.

Anxiety

Miners have long believed in a superstition about women and the mines, and there was anxiety when the women went inside the tunnel, Fajilan said.

After the visit, Lepanto suffered three accidents inside the mines, three months in a row, she said.

The accidents stopped only when four miners were killed.

Another accident occurred in 1993 when a mining engineer toured his girlfriend and two other women friends inside the tunnels.

Two successive accidents again occurred, killing three miners. The mining engineer was reportedly fired.

Philex Mines, based in Itogon, Benguet, does not share the same policy with Lepanto, said Philex PR department chief Redempta Baluda.

When she was Philex geologist, Baluda entered the mine tunnels without any untoward incidents.

But the *camote* miners or the small-scale miners in Itogon were even more superstitious than the Lepanto miners.

Not only are women not allowed to enter their pocket mines, the *camote* miners don't engage in sexual intercourse a week before they enter the tunnels as well.

This would ensure their pure intentions, former mining activist Connie Danga-Subagan said.

Because of this, pocket miners also will not move their bowels inside the mines.

In the US, some mines also ban women because they hex the mines.

"The origin of the belief that women in mines were unlucky is lost in antiquity. Historian George Korson says that Russian miners believed the fear originated long ago when, in the northern twilight along the Volga River, Russian peasants saw the vampire souls of women leaving their river caves to fly through the night, searching for prey," Mara Lou Hawse wrote in "Miner's Angel."

Hawse said male miners cited many instances of hexing, including what happened in a coal mine in Poteau, Oklahoma, in 1905.

"Some women were picnicking near a mine. The mine was idle because of a strike, and so the women were taken for a tour. Many of the miners believed that was a bad omen and refused to return to work when the strike was settled. A short time later, the mine was wrecked by a major explosion," Hawse said.

"Even famous women could bring bad luck. In March 1940, Eleanor Roosevelt, wife of President Franklin Roosevelt, visited Willow Grove Mine at St. Clairsville, Ohio. The miners were nervous. Even the illustrious Mrs. Roosevelt could not be excepted from the general belief that women cast evil spells over coal mines. The miners believed that because of her visit, the Willow Grove Mine was 'hexed.' On March 16, several days after Mrs. Roosevelt's visit, the mine blew up, and 72 miners were killed."

At home with the Ifugaos

BY MARIBELLE DULNUAN-BIMOHYA
Ifugao

THE IFUGAOS are perhaps the most studied ethnic tribe in the country. Not only does the tribe puzzle the minds of academicians on how its ancestors built the rice terraces using only the crudest tools available but it also boasts of a highly elaborate system of agriculture, religion, music and arts.

One renowned anthropologist who has been studying and documenting Ifugao culture and environment for almost 40 years is Dr. Harold Conklin.

Conklin, who is based in Connecticut, has authored many publications on the Ifugaos, of which the most valuable and most acclaimed is the "Ethnographic Atlas of Ifugao: A Study of Environment, Culture and Society in Northern Luzon."

The book, published in 1980, offers a comprehensive study of the Ifugao environment. Conklin was also able to integrate in his atlas an exhaustive essay on the Ifugao, accompanied by historic documents, ethnographic maps and about 150 photographs.

Now 75, he still visits Ifugao. This year alone, he has already made two trips from Connecticut

to Banaue, Ifugao's capital town.

"I have considered Ifugao my second home. In fact, I can say that I am in part an Ifugao myself because I have my own native house here," Conklin said in pure native Ifugao tongue, complete with accent.

Home in Banaue

In 1962, Conklin set up a local base near Banaue called *Bayninan*. He made six trips to Ifugao from 1961 to 1973. He even stayed for two full academic years in the 1960s with his wife and two sons, living the way the Ifugaos live and farm.

Conklin said his second child's first language is Ifugao.

His sons participated in Ifugao boys' activities.

"They played with other kids in the mud and frolicked around the *pinugu* or private forest without getting lost. They had their own *bowwow* (dogs) and their own little *batawel* (car-

rying pole) they used to carry bundles of freshly harvested rice from the terraces to the village," he narrated.

Although his children have their own families now, they still visit *Bayninan*, he said.

Since he has established a good rapport with the Ifugao folk, Conklin was given a native Ifugao name *Maqqin* (pronounced *Maiin*).

He has also been introduced to the different rituals of *Bayninan*. In fact, when their *Bayninan* was finished, the natives performed the *hogop*, a traditional house warming.

Because of World War II, Conklin was able to set foot on the Philippines as a soldier. He visited numerous areas in Luzon, including the Cordillera.

Filipino teacher

Conklin learned Filipino and became a Filipino teacher at the Philippine Institute for the Armed Forces, which is now a part of De La Salle University.

He launched his principal Philippine field research in 1947, studying the Hanunuos of Mindoro and the Tagbanuwas of Palawan.

After publishing a number of books and articles, mostly on the Tagbanuwas, he decided to study the Ifugaos.

"The study of Ifugao environment came about from a survey sometime



DR. Harold Conklin in one of his many interactions with the Ifugaos.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DR. HAROLD CONKLIN

in 1958 to locate another distinct area in the country where there is a significant difference from Mindoro life and culture," he said.

"I found the Ifugao to be phonetically and grammatically much more challenging than Central Philippine languages that I had previously studied."

The diversity of the Ifugao culture captivated him so much that even years after he retired as a Yale University professor, he continued to do research on Ifugao ecology and linguistics.

To date, he is now working on the Ifugao rice and other related topics.

"I have long dreamt of coming up with a book on Ifugao rice, not from the standpoint of a botanist but of somebody who has spent a good deal of his life studying and living it. It is a situation where I can say I know the subject intimately but have not been given the opportunity to write about it," Conklin said.

He is now looking forward to see the book published in two years.

Ping: Nani has dollar hoard in Hong Kong

(From page A1)

cited Perez's earlier claim that he had uncovered one of the senator's 18 alleged bank accounts abroad.

Perez had been quoted as saying that Lacson's supposed account in Hong Kong contained \$20 million, which would make the senator liable under the proposed anti-money laundering act now being rushed for approval in the Senate and the House of Representatives.

"(The measure) could very well apply to him," Lacson said. "I'm telling you, the \$20 million he said he uncovered... he could be looking at his own bank account, not mine."

Asked how Perez could have acquired the money and who gave it to him, the senator said: "We'll soon find out."

Egged on to say how Perez got the money, Lacson said: "Extortion."

When the INQUIRER asked if he was talking about the P351-million Impsa deal, Lacson told reporters to take up the matter with Perez.

"You ask him about Coutts bank in Hong Kong. That's all for now," Lacson said.

Impsa had bagged the contract to rehabilitate the Caliraya-Botocan-Kalayaan hydroelectric plant in Laguna, allegedly under terms grossly disadvantageous to the Philippine government.

Reporters sought Perez's reaction to Lacson's accusation yesterday afternoon, but he was not in his office and his cellular phone was switched to voice mail mode.

At 6:20 last night, his public relations officer Rolly Francia told the INQUIRER through a text message that the secretary "cannot be reached yet."

Frontliner

Perez is one of the frontliners in pinning down Lacson for alleged crimes including drug trafficking, money laundering, kidnapping for ransom and summary execution.

It is the Department of Justice that attempted to revive the Kuratong Baleleng summary-execution case against Lacson.

Also, state prosecutors under Perez's supervision have recently charged Lacson's associates—Senior Superintendents Michael Ray Aquino and Cesar Mancao, both absent without leave—with double murder for the disappearance

and summary execution of publicist Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and his driver Emmanuel Corbito.

Lacson arrived from the United States last week, purportedly to gather evidence to show that contrary to charges made by the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces, he does not have bank accounts there containing a total of \$211 million.

Perez stressed yesterday that the documents ostensibly gathered by Lacson would be useless unless these were authenticated by a Philippine consul.

Members of the INQUIRER received text messages Sunday night warning that Lacson was able to acquire documents supposedly implicating Perez in the controversial Impsa deal, which he

had endorsed.

Earlier reports said Perez's timing was being questioned because he submitted the endorsement two days after President Macapagal-Arroyo took over the reins of Malacañang.

In earlier interviews, Perez said he had only reiterated a previous ruling made by his predecessor, Justice Secretary Artemio Tuquero, in endorsing the Impsa project.

Lacson was found to have taken a trip to Hong Kong with his chief of staff, Evaristo Gana, days after he was sworn in as senator on June 5.

When rumors spread that he flew to Hong Kong to withdraw money from his supposed accounts, Lacson said he was there to investigate an alleged bribery incident involving an official of the

Macapagal administration.

He neither named the official nor gave details on the supposed bribery.

'Nakakagigil'

During his news conference yesterday afternoon, Perez refused to add anything to his earlier comment on the text messages.

But he changed his mind later and called for the INQUIRER after the news conference.

"Nakakagigil, eh (This is infuriating). There is no basis to these text messages," Perez told the INQUIRER.

He added: "I cannot be blackmailed by anyone. I will not let go of prosecuting anyone against whom there is evidence. I will not persecute anyone, but I will not hesitate to prosecute anyone against whom there is evidence."

Rosebud, Acop ready evidence

(From page A1)

But Chief Supt. Reynaldo Acop, whom Ong linked to Lacson, said he would present 26 pieces of documentary evidence, including the transcript of a wiretap conducted by the Hong Kong and Macao police.

According to Acop, the evidence will prove Ong's testimony is nothing but a "make-believe story (fabricated) for the money."

A former INQUIRER correspondent will also testify as an "independent witness," a source in the Senate revealed. (See story on this page.)

Ong said she would present a chart of the paper trail and some pieces of documentary evidence that form part of that trail. This would prove Lacson's alleged participation in kidnapping for ransom, drug trafficking and money laundering, she said.

"I have the pieces of evidence that would pin Ping Lacson down," Ong told a joint meeting of the Rotary Clubs of Makati on Friday night.

Full transcript

But Acop, the former chief of the Philippine National Police Narcotics Group, said he would present the full transcript of a telephone conversation recorded between Ong and Ah Tau, previously identified by Ong as Mr. Lee and as the "big boss" of the Chinese triad.

The transcript, the result of a wiretapping operation on Feb. 3, 1999, purportedly shows the two discussing a drug shipment to the Philippines.

"This transcript will only prove that Ong was lying through her teeth. The phone conversation showed that Ong was in Hong Kong and Tau alias Mr. Lee was in Macao. Therefore, it was impossible for Ong to say that she saw Mr. Lee and Kim Wong together in a restaurant in Hong Kong because Mr. Lee was in Macao at the time," Acop said.

He said Tau and Ong had been tagged by both the Hong Kong and Macao police as members of the Chinese triad and were under surveillance.

"We also found out that Ong's travel to Hong Kong at the time to meet with

Tau was not authorized by her handler Supt. John Campos, Acop said. "May sarili siyang diskarte. Lumalarga ng sarili."

Solons' children

At yesterday's hearing of the House committee on illegal drugs, Ong said that children of senators and congressmen were among the frequent buyers of illegal drugs, particularly the designer drug Ecstasy.

She said the names of the children were contained in a second blue book seized during a raid on a pharmaceutical firm by the Hong Kong Royal Police in 1997.

Ong testified at the hearing together with PNP Director General Leandro Mendoza and National Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco.

She said she saw the "blue book" containing the names of frequent buyers of Ecstasy after the Hong Kong police raid led by Police Inspector Ron Abbott.

Ong said Abbott then showed the "blue book" to then-PNP chief Lacson and pointed out that some of the names listed in it belonged to children of prominent lawmakers.

"But I cannot name names because the book is not with me. Only Senator Lacson and Abbott can reveal their names," she told the committee.

Senators' denial

In a meeting with Senate reporters yesterday however, Lacson denied keeping a "blue book."

"I'm not holding a blue book. She should not drag me into her dirty tricks (campaign)," he said. "I don't have an idea about what she's saying."

Lacson said that had he gotten his hands on a reported "blue book," "I'll make it public or have it investigated."

For his part, Sotto said he had already heard such reports before, adding and he was not the least bit affected by them.

"I've heard a lot about all these things," he said. "I wouldn't be surprised if they did that. They've been hot on my tracks for a long time now."

Sotto, who was earlier linked to alleged international drug lord Alfredo Tiongo, said anybody could come up

with his own purported "blue book."

"I can even put your name in a list in my own book," he teased Senate reporters.

He said he was no longer interested in whatever new charges were being brought against him or Lacson, saying the issue had no bearing on legislative work.

Acop's evidence

Acop said he had more evidence against Ong, including a letter sent to the Chinese Embassy by Queena Lao, wife of Wong Kam Chung, tagged by Ong as an alleged drug lord turned kidnap-for-ransom and murder victim, reportedly at the hands of the Lacson-Acop group.

In her letter, Lao told Chinese officials that the last time she heard from her husband was in January 2000 when she was able to talk to him over the phone.

"In that case, Ong's allegation that Lacson and I ordered the killing or *biyaha* of Wong Kam Chung on May 18 or... (May) 19, 1999 was a complete lie," Acop told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

At the same time, Acop said, Lao attested that Ong and Shanghai Chua, alleged trial boss in the Philippines, tried to personally negotiate with her for the ransom of her husband in exchange for his freedom.

"The negotiation took place also in January 2000. So, Wong Kam Chung was alive then," Acop said, citing Lao's letter, which was written in Chinese.

"That means (that) Ong tried to attribute to us the kidnap-for-ransom and the murder of Wong Kam Chung when the truth was it was her and Chua who did the kidnapping and possibly (the) murder (too)," Acop said.

The rest of his evidence, Acop said, would "completely demolish" Ong's credibility.

"Ong is good at making up stories in exchange for money. She was promised by Corpus immunity from suits by taking her in as a witness. Now, the drug and *estafa* cases against her had been set aside. But she is a witness without a credibility who would do everything for the money," Acop said.

Acop called on the public "not to be taken for a ride" by Ong's "melodramatic"

Senate testimony.

Among thieves

Ong said she was preparing to tell all against Lacson since 1999.

"You know what it's like to be a thief to catch another thief. I was secretly making copies of their correspondences (sic)," Ong said.

The former civilian agent of the now-defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force said she diligently made copies of the documents as early as 1999. She said the documents now formed part of her evidence against the senator.

Ong also revealed that Lacson's group in the PNP had been eyeing his election to the Presidency in 2004 as early as 1999, barely a year after his benefactor, then President Joseph Estrada, was voted into office.

Ong recalled the time when Lacson's group allegedly planted two kilos of shabu on a certain Red Madrazo, a person closely identified with then-PNP chief Roberto Lastimoso.

"I (asked) John Campos how come they were doing this to Lastimoso, when he was retiring in 18 months anyway. This was how greedy these people were," Ong said.

"Lacson didn't want to be police chief later. He wanted it right there and then," she said.

"John Campos told me that he was not about to waste his years in service serving Lastimoso. He'd rather serve Lacson who would be President in 2004," Ong said.

Senate agenda

Lacson told reporters he would not attend today's hearing, even as he denied knowing a certain Remus Garganera, a *cargador* whom Ong tagged as among the

people watching over an alleged drug factory familiar to Lacson.

Senators Joker Arroyo and Robert Barbers, chair of the blue ribbon and public order panels, respectively, said today's hearing would be devoted to the testimony of Acop, Campos and other police officials whom Ong had linked to illegal drug operations.

"We'll give them the opportunity to speak up," Barbers said.

Barbers also said Lacson would not be compelled to present his "folder-full" of documents to deny his critics' charges.

"We will not ask him to turn them over. It will not affect our investigation, unless he voluntarily presents it to us," he said. *With a report from Rocky Nazareno*

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'Surprise witness' is ex-PDI man

(From page A1)

that Art Sampana, a provincial correspondent who left the newspaper in 1997, would testify on his experience while in the protective custody of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines at the height of the scandal involving alleged drug lord Alfredo Tiongo in 1997.

Interviewed last month on his forthcoming book "Drugs, Demolition Jobs and Dangerous Living," Sampana said the Lacson case was a "re-run of the Tiongo-Pareña" case when senators, police officers and other personalities were linked to the illicit drug trade.

Florencio Pareña, a former policeman, was Tiongo's business associate and Sampana's publisher at the Luzon Pen.

Among those linked to the drug trade, aside from Sotto, were then Senators Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Alberto Romulo and Nikki Coseteng. The exposé was believed to be a demolition job on Sotto and Macapagal, then the most popular senators and perceived to be a very strong president-vice president tandem for the 1998 elections.

Sampana said the Lacson case was "based on the same script, with a different cast of characters. Now, he said, in the place of Sotto is Lacson, with popular senators Loren Legarda and Noli de Castro also getting a share of the blows.

He said he was writing the book "to clear my name." He has been doing freelance writing since 1998, while his wife maintains a small eatery in Bulacan.

Continued operation

The Isafp chief at that time, now retired Maj. Gen. Benjamin Libarnes, admitted yesterday that the Isafp operation initiated by current chief Col. Victor Corpus against Lacson was really "a continuation of the

Tiongo case."

"Corpus continued the operation with some modification. He used some of the data," Libarnes said, adding that it was he who gave Corpus the idea to raise the issue of "narco-politics" against Lacson.

"I first raised that issue in 1997 (against Sen. Vicente Sotto III)," he said, explaining the perils of drug money being used to finance a politician's candidacy, the very same line espoused by Corpus today.

The well-publicized case against Tiongo left an 8-year-old girl dead. Paulyn Lacson was killed when government agents strafed a van driven by her father, on the mistaken assumption that it was owned by Tiongo.

To date, Tiongo's lawyer, Nicolas Ruiz II, remains missing. He was last seen at Melo's Restaurant in Greenhills, allegedly in a meeting with a group of Isafp officers.

Dismissed cop

Sampana, who was also the editor of Luzon Pen, admitted he was a friend of Pareña. He said he learned about the drug syndicates through Pareña. He then became an informer of the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency; he said Pareña also agreed to become a Nica asset. He said his interest in the drug syndicate in the early 1990s was mainly "journalistic."

In July 1997, Sampana said agents from the Isafp raided his office. "It was there but they didn't know me," he said. His handler from the Nica "rescued" him from the office and brought him to a safe house.

Later, his Nica handler, who had a brother in the Isafp, turned him over to Libarnes. "I found out Pareña was also with them," he said.

At the Isafp, Sampana said officers "debriefed" him and Pareña for several days. He said the officers cajoled him to "link" some personalities to the drug trade. He said he just

played along with their game.

Congressional hearing

It was not the case with Pareña, he said, who was scheduled to appear at a congressional hearing. In his presence, Pareña prepared a statement taken by an Isafp counsel, which Pareña signed. When they read the statement, however, it included the names of Macapagal, Coseteng and Romulo as among the politicians engaged in drug trade.

Pareña protested, but the lawyer assured him the matter would be corrected later.

Libarnes, however, denied Pareña did not know the contents of the affidavit which was signed in the presence of Pareña's lawyer, Oliver Lozano.

"Some politicians did funny stuff," Libarnes said, blaming some congressmen for the leak. He said Pareña's affidavit was intended to be presented during an executive session. But then Rep. Rolito Golez showed it to the media.

An Isafp colonel, however, confirmed the Tiongo-Pareña case was just a "political show" by the Isafp under Libarnes and the Presidential Security Group then under Brig. Gen. Jose Calimlim. Both officers are perceived to be loyal to former President Fidel V. Ramos.

He said that, from the start, their operations had "many gaps, many unexplained presence (sic) of certain people." He cited in particular the participation of NBI agent Martin Soriano.

Using a PSG helicopter, the Isafp colonel, Soriano and another PSG officer hovered over Pampanga on an aerial search for Tiongo's alleged shabu factory. "We were getting dizzy but this Soriano apparently did not know what we were looking for. A good thing we didn't push him out, because we really wanted to get rid of him," he said.

The Isafp colonel said he felt Tiongo took them for a ride. But looking back now, he said "it was Isafp which was taken for a ride."

Queen finally goes hi-tech

(From page A1)

phone and she uses it not only to call the royals but also to reach her horse racing contacts.

The paper said it was Prince Andrew who gifted his mother the mobile phone, a Siemens C35i, and had taught her how to use it.

The Queen, 75, does not use the phone in public, but chats to family members on it while at Buckingham Palace and her country estates Sandringham and Balmoral.

The queen is also believed to use it to call her horse racing contacts, the paper said.

"It was a bit of a novelty at first and took some time for her to master. But now it is second nature for her, like it is to most people," the paper quoted a senior courtier as saying.

A Buckingham Palace spokesperson reacted: "We don't discuss private gifts between members of the Royal Family."

Royal aides said Andrew did not buy the cell phone as a joke.

"Andrew is the most technologically minded of the family. He thought it was high time his mother got a mobile and he bought her one of the very best," an aide told the paper.

It took the Queen some convincing that she should have her own mobile phone. Last year, the same paper reported that Her Majesty banned servants from carrying cell phones while on duty because their ringing annoyed her.

The tabloid said Andrew had pre-programmed on the Queen's phone the numbers of her four children so she could recall them with speed dialing.

No, the Queen has not customized her ring tone, at least not yet.

The Sun, however, has a special offer for cell phone owners in the United Kingdom—they can have their mobiles answered by a voice message from the Queen with the national anthem, God Save the Queen, as their ring tone.

"We've arranged for Her Majesty, who just

got her own mobile, to leave a message on your phone—at least, it's someone who sounds just like her!" the paper told its readers.

Those who get the special message will hear the Queen's distinctive regal tones, saying: "One must apologize. One is not at liberty to take one's call at the moment. One usually has a little man around to do this sort of thing but he's out walking the Corgis. Apparently, one should now leave a message."

The paper did not say if the Queen was also learning how to read and send text messages but it nonetheless provided her a guide to help her with text messaging.

Instead of asking, "Could one give me the odds on the runners and riders for the 2.30 at Ascot, please," Her Majesty could just type the shortcut, "Cd 1 gimme odds on 2.30 nags Ascot."

Instead of saying, "I'd like a Gin and Tonic, please," she could just text, "GnT 4 me."

And, "One is terribly fond of the Corgis," becomes "I luv Crgis." *With a report from AFP*

Supreme Court of the Philippines
Judicial and Bar Council
Manila

The following applied/have been nominated for the position of ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT:

	Date of Birth	
1. Balane, Ruben F.	July 4, 1941	nominated & w/conformity
2. Carpio, Antonio T.	Oct. 10, 1949	nominated & w/conformity
3. Corona, Renato C.	Oct. 15, 1948	nominated & w/conformity
4. De Castro, Soledad Cagampang	Dec. 15, 1944	personally applied
5. De la Cruz, Romeo C.	Nov. 15, 1936	nominated & w/conformity
6. Demetriou, Harriet Obias	Nov. 19, 1946	nominated & w/conformity
7. Garchilorena, Francis E.	Jan. 8, 1938	personally applied
8. Garcia, Candelo C.	Oct. 20, 1937	personally applied
9. Jacinto, Godardo A.	Aug. 20, 1936	personally applied
10. Martinez, Maria Alicia Austria	Dec. 19, 1940	personally applied
11. Rama, Darlo C.	Apr. 29, 1939	personally applied
12. Reyes, Mariano Ramon T.	Aug. 31, 1939	personally applied
13. Sandoval, Edilberto G.	June 20, 1941	personally applied
14. Verzola, Eubulo G.	Mar 7, 1936	personally applied
15. Vinluan, Rogelio A.	May 7, 1937	nominated & w/conformity

The public may submit any information, written report, sworn complaint or opposition against any of the aforesaid applicants, not later than **TUESDAY, 9 OCTOBER 2001**, to:

The Secretariat, Judicial and Bar Council
Supreme Court, Padre Faura, Manila
Tel. No. 524-7309 FAX No. 525-3208

The following are not included in the list as they can no longer be nominated because of age, pursuant to Rule 8, Sec. 2 of the Rules of the Judicial and Bar Council:

- Gupit, Fortunato I. Jr.
- Tuquero, Artemio G.

24 September 2001.

(Sgd.) LUZVIMINDA D. PUNO
Clerk of Court
Officio Secretary

The Evidences of The Living God
through Lee Jae-Rock ministry

Spark of revival in RP

Rev. Dr. Lee Jae-Rock, president of Manmin World Mission of South Korea, will hold a conference for church leaders and workers on September 26 and 27, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the PICC Plenary Hall on Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City.

Crusades will be held nightly from September 27 to 29 at the Quirino Grandstand, Luneta, Manila. He believes that the power of God will be demonstrated in the conference and in the crusades.

Everyone is invited to attend the crusades, bring the lame, the blind, the sick and all persons with incurable diseases. He also invites those addicted to drugs, wine, cigarettes, and those with AIDS and cancer. Come and experience the power of God in the mighty name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

▲ When the holy Spirit came in the revival meeting after the altar call, Rev. Dr. Lee Jae-Rock was the first to be baptized, and he was a little larger than the rest of the men.

▲ While Rev. Lee was praying for him, elder Moon-Gil Kim came to his senses and got up.

▲ Rev. Lee said the burden of the Holy Spirit was on him.

▲ When Rev. Lee was praying for him, elder Moon-Gil Kim came to his senses and got up.

▲ When Rev. Lee was praying for him, elder Moon-Gil Kim came to his senses and got up.

▲ When Rev. Lee was praying for him, elder Moon-Gil Kim came to his senses and got up.

Belgium detains 30 Pinoys

(From page A1)

12 hours in the police station in Brussels:

- Honorato and Belen Calacapa (from Novales, but originally from Bicol) and their four children.
- Ricky Paragas (from Bicol).
- Edito and Jannette Arnais (from the Visayas) and their children.
- A couple identified only as Boy and Leone.
- Chris Calsada (from the Ilocos) and his family.

- A certain Lee (from Southern Tagalog).
- Angelo Loretto and Vergie Tufay-Loretto (from Baguio City) and their children.
- Mariana Amboghnon (from the Cordillera), her sister Bergely and her son Tom.
- Letecia Binwag, her three children and her husband from Africa.

Racist

"Migrante International denounces the police actions as unwarranted, racist and a manifesta-

tion of rising anti-immigrant harassment," Legaspi said of the global alliance of overseas Filipino groups devoted to protecting and advancing the rights and welfare of Filipinos abroad.

He said some of the Filipinos harassed were members of the Ugnayan ng mga Pilipino sa Belgium and the Cordillera-Belgium Association, both member-organizations of Migrante-Europe.

These group members were subjected to further interrogation about the

aims and objectives of their organizations, he said.

Legaspi also said the raids and arrests indicated that the looming US-led war against terrorism would not be confined to a particular region on the planet.

"Already, the raids on Filipino homes in Belgium signify that those identified as 'terrorists' or 'enemies' of the United States will include not just Muslims, Arabs or Indians," he said, adding:

"Increasingly, it may include all

people of color, especially in Western countries, and all those who struggle against American domination."

'Are you from Qatar?'

Lamangan's experience could serve to illustrate the expanding US-led war.

In his column in the Sept. 24 issue of Pinoy Times, Lacaba narrated how Lamangan, a multi-awarded film director, was questioned at the Toronto airport.

Lacaba wrote that at the time of the deadly attacks in New York and Washington, Lamangan was a guest of the

Toronto International Film Festival, where his film "Deathrow" was among the entries.

On this way to Detroit from Toronto, the American immigration officer asked Lamangan if he was from the Gulf state of Qatar.

Upon Lamangan's answer that he is from the Philippines, the immigration officer ordered him strip-searched.

Yet, after being detained for more than an hour, Lamangan did not even receive an apology, Lacaba wrote. *With a report from Gerald G. Lacuarta*

Abu on US freeze list

(From page A1)

overseas institutions because the groups listed "operate primarily overseas, and they don't have much money in the United States."

Heeding Bush's call, the Philippine government said it was investigating the financial dealings of at least two local charity groups with possible links to Moro extremist groups.

National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said his office was investigating the financial dealings of two or three private groups, including a charity organization, possibly the International Islamic Relief Organization Inc. (IIRO), with possible links to the Abu Sayyaf.

The IIRO was formed in 1992 to channel funds to Muslim communities in Mindanao.

Golez refused to provide details of the Philippine investigation.

"I gave a directive to conduct a money trail investigation to the extent that it can be done," Golez said.

The Abu Sayyaf reportedly collected about \$21 million in ransom from foreign hostages seized from the Malaysian diving resort in Sipadan last year.

Four months ago, it abducted three Americans from an island resort in Puerto Princessa, and has since then allegedly received \$8.2 million in ransom from the Filipino hostages it had released.

Presidential spokesman Rigoberto Tiglao said the government would do everything it could to freeze the Abu Sayyaf assets. "One problem obviously is that we cannot find the Abu Sayyaf assets," he said.

Starve terrorists

"We will starve the terrorists of fund-

ing, turn them against each other, root them out of their safe hiding places and bring them to justice," Bush said.

In a statement released later, Bush said the order covered 11 terrorist groups, 12 individual terrorist leaders, a firm that serves as a front for terrorism, and three non-profit groups with alleged links to terrorists.

The list includes the Armed Islamic Group, an Algerian group with ties to Bin Laden; the Pakistan-based Harakat ul-Mujahidin; the Egyptian Islamic Jihad, a partner in Bin Laden's International Front; and the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan, which seeks to install an Islamic fundamentalist regime in Uzbekistan.

The Asbat al-Ansar, a group headed by Ahmed Abdel-Karim al-Saadi, a Palestinian fundamentalist; the Salafist Group for Call and Combat, which is active in Algeria; and the Libyan Islamic Fighting Group, a little-known, fundamentalist group which claimed responsibility for the 1996 assassination attempt on Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi.

The al-Itihaad al-Islamiya, which seeks Islamic rule for Ogaden, a region of eastern Ethiopia; the Islamic Army of Aden; the Makhtab al-Khidamat/al-Kifah, a group that recruited fighters during the Afghan war against the Soviets; and the Wafa Humanitarian Organization, a Saudi organization active in Bosnia during its 1992-1995 war.

The Al Rashid Trust, a Pakistan-based charity started by Islamists who espouse the same brand of Islam as the Taliban. Muhammad Atif, an Egyptian commander of the military wing of the International Front for Fighting Jews and Crusades, which claimed responsibility

for the 1998 bombings of the US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania.

Abu Zubaydah, allegedly a senior aide to Bin Laden; and Ayman al-Zawahiri, leader of the Egyptian Jihad and Bin Laden's top lieutenant.

"This list is just the beginning. We will continue to add more names to the list. We will freeze the assets of others, as we find that they aid and abet terrorist organizations around the world," he said.

Bush warned that overseas institutions, which refused to cooperate with the United States, would face sanctions.

"If they fail to help us by sharing information or freezing accounts, the Department of the Treasury now has the authority to freeze their (the foreign institutions) banks' assets and transactions in the United States," Bush said.

Japan, China support

Japan and China also supported the US move to freeze the assets of terrorists.

"We are now preparing to freeze such assets in Japan," Japanese Finance Minister Masajuro Shiokawa Shiokawa said at a news conference.

Shiokawa said Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and Bush would discuss on Tuesday a global fight against terrorism including money laundering used in international terrorism.

Koizumi visited the ruins of New York's World Trade Center Monday and pledged Japan's support for the US fight against terrorism.

China's foreign ministry spokesperson Zhu Bangzao said "China supports the efforts of the international community to strengthen the fight against terrorism and to crack down on all manner of violent international terrorism, includ-

ing the prevention and crackdown on financing terrorist groups."

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority said it had issued a circular to local banks last week on a list of suspected terrorists named by the US Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Washington also received support from Singapore, Southeast Asia's banking hub and a financial safe haven during times of regional instability.

"We have checked all the banks here, but we have not received any reports of transactions or assets involving Osama bin Laden or his associates," Deputy Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said on Sunday.

Lee, also the head of the Monetary Authority of Singapore, added that the city-state would investigate and take appropriate action if it received new information.

In Malaysia, Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said there was no evidence that terrorists had stashed money in the country's financial institutions.

Mahathir was commenting on reports that Bin Laden maintained bank accounts in Malaysia under a false name.

United Nations

Powell said the United States would also try to secure international cooperation in efforts to cut off oxygen to terrorist groups.

"We're going to take this initiative into the United Nations and try to get additional resolutions that serve similar purposes," Powell said.

Bush said his administration would exercise the power to freeze the assets of the terrorists responsibly. "But make no mistake about it, we intend to and

we will disrupt terrorist networks," he said.

Bush said that in Europe "there are probably going to need to be some laws changed."

US officials said funds would be targeted through a multi-agency "Foreign Terrorist Asset Tracking Center (FTAT)," which is already working to identify the network of terrorist funding before new attacks occur.

Anti-laundering law

The Philippine Congress is rushing to pass an anti-money laundering bill by Sunday, a deadline set by FTAT.

The country is included on a list of nations, which could face sanctions if they don't put in place adequate safeguards against money laundering.

The proposed bill would criminalize money laundering and ease the country's stringent bank secrecy laws to enable banks to alert authorities about suspicious accounts.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas admitted it had limited powers to track down and freeze accounts of suspected terrorists because of the country's strict deposit secrecy laws.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the enactment of an anti-money laundering law would help the government track down and freeze accounts of the Abu Sayyaf.

"The Philippines can't freeze these accounts because we can't even open them until the anti-money laundering law is passed. The deposit secrecy law bars us from doing it," said BSP legal counsel Juan de Zúñiga.

Under Republic Act 1405, all bank

deposits are considered confidential. Any account can only be examined with a court order.

Tiglao said any Abu Sayyaf asset could be garnished only after a case against a specific individual had been filed and resolved by a court.

He cited the case of jailed Abu Sayyaf leader Hector Janjalani, whose assets could be garnished if the authorities were able to identify them.

He disclosed that the Armed Forces and the Philippine National Police had been tracking down the Abu Sayyaf network, its possible links with Bin Laden, and its resources.

"The PNP and the AFP have not been publicly announcing it but all throughout these years since 1995, they have been trying to track down the bank accounts and assets. So far there are no strong evidence of particular accounts of so and so," Tiglao said.

He said there was no evidence to show that the IIRO was a Bin Laden front. Neither was there evidence of terrorist links with the Islamic Information Center, which he said seemed to have ceased operations.

"During the early '90s, these NGOs were very active but right now they seem to be dormant. We have to be very careful about the NGOs that are in Mindanao, especially in Cotabato. Just because it's an Islamic NGO does not mean it's a terrorist organization or conduit," Tiglao said.

He said a lot of these NGOs were financed by moderate Saudi businessmen whose aim was to fund Madrasa schools and to put up livelihood projects. *Reports from AFP, AP, Juliet Javellana and Clarissa S. Batino*

Saudis cut ties with Taliban gov't

(From page A1)

as a guest of the Taliban.

Since seizing power in 1996, the Taliban have made Afghanistan "a center for attracting, training and recruiting a number of deceived men from different nationalities, especially citizens of the kingdom, in order to carry out criminal acts that violate any faith and creed," the Saudi government said.

It accused the Taliban of resisting all urgings to "hand over those criminals to justice," including appeals by the Pakistani government.

Saudi Arabia, however, insisted that it would stand by the Afghan people and work for whatever would achieve security and prosperity for them.

Under intense US lobbying, the United Arab Emirates shut down the Afghan Embassy in Dubai on Saturday, and announced it was severing diplomatic relations with the Taliban.

Pakistan withdrew its last diplomats from Kabul, the Afghan capital, over the weekend. But the Pakistan government said it would keep relations with Afghanistan, describing the Afghan Embassy in Islamabad as the Taliban's window to the world.

Defiant

Bin Laden's international terrorist organization and its Taliban allies, how-

ever, remain defiant.

"Wherever there are Americans and Jews, they will be targeted," said a statement purportedly signed by the chief military commander of al-Qaida, Bin Laden's organization.

"We can defend ourselves. The holy warriors are fully prepared," Naser Ahmed Mujahed said in the statement faxed to Pakistani news organizations. "Wherever there are Muslims, they should prepare for jihad (holy war), and by the grace of God, the victory will be Islam's."

Afghan Deputy Defense Minister Mollah Noor Ali also showed no fear of the US might arrayed against the Taliban.

"Whoever attacks us or helps any attack on our enemy and we will attack him," he told Qatar's Al-Jazeera satellite TV on Tuesday.

Taliban spiritual leader Mullah Mohammad Omar also warned the United States that it could never stamp out terrorism as long as it supported Israel and maintained troops in the Middle East.

In Kabul, about 500 people staged a noisy anti-US demonstration, shouting "Death to America!" and "Long live Osama bin Laden!"

The Taliban-run Anis newspaper said a senior Taliban minister had told the Afghan people not to worry about possible US strikes, because "fresh holy warriors are volunteering to join the militia."

Even so, thousands of Afghans con-

tinued to mass on the country's closed borders with Pakistan and Iran in what could rapidly become a torrent of refugees.

But hundreds were returning to Kabul in the belief that any US strike would spare residential areas.

More shops were open and more people were out in the streets of the capital, already battered to near oblivion by years of civil strife.

There was heavy fighting, however, in northern Afghanistan where an opposition alliance is battling Taliban troops for strategic areas near the Kabul.

A spokesperson of the so-called Northern Alliance said the opposition had captured several villages from the Taliban in the Sangcharak district, killed six Taliban soldiers and captured weapons including artillery, tanks, mortars and rocket launchers.

Bush letter

In Washington, Bush sent the US Congress a letter broadly outlining how forces have been deployed in the Middle East and the Asia-Pacific regions. He planned to meet with House and Senate leaders Tuesday.

"It is not now possible to predict the scope and duration of these deployments, and the actions necessary to counter the terrorist threat to the United States," Bush

said in his letter.

B-1 and B-52 bombers, dozens of fighters, and support aircraft have been deployed in the Persian Gulf and Indian Ocean regions, along with elite Special Operations troops.

Defense officials said about a dozen more aircraft, including refueling planes would soon be moved to these regions to join nearly 350 US warplanes at land bases and on two aircraft carriers.

Japan was also reportedly sending warships to the Indian Ocean to carry out intelligence and surveillance missions.

The squadron may join up with the USS Kitty Hawk, an aircraft carrier that left its base near Tokyo on Friday.

More support

Bush also continued to gain support for the US war against terrorism after he came out with a financial hit list of suspected terrorist groups.

Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, who is scheduled to meet Bush later Tuesday, became the first world leader to respond to the US call for a global crackdown on terrorist funding, saying Japan would also freeze the assets of suspected terrorists.

In addition to joining the US bid to financially suffocate the terror groups, Japan said its defense forces could pro-

vide the United States with logistic support but would stay away from any fighting.

"We will act within the framework of the Constitution (which) does not allow the use of force to resolve international conflicts," a government spokesperson in Tokyo said.

President Ion Iliescu of formerly communist Romania joined the anti-terror coalition Tuesday, saying he was prepared to offer NATO any help it may need.

"Romania has made its choice: We are on the side of the United States and the other countries who firmly defend liberty, democracy, peace, and international stability," he said.

Romania was the latest country in a growing list of former Cold War rivals responding favorably to Washington's bid to forge a worldwide anti-terror coalition.

Poland, now a NATO member, announced Tuesday that it would open its airspace to the United States, one day after Russian President Vladimir Putin pledged Moscow's help and allowed US flights over Russia for "humanitarian" purposes.

Kyrgyzstan

Kyrgyzstan followed the lead Tuesday of Russia and other former Soviet Republics Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan by opening up its airspace.

Freeze order not enforceable in RP...

(From page A1)

ited in a local bank whose head office is based in the United States, enforcing the Bush order will be easy.

The bank can simply refuse to allow transactions on an account suspected to be linked with the local terrorist group. "Orders from the top" could well be invoked should an authorized representative of the account in question tries to withdraw or transfer its proceeds.

Unless the depositor gets a court order instructing the bank to follow the wishes of the depositor (which the bank will likely appeal to a higher court for a final ruling), there is nothing the depositor can do but wait for Bush to lift his freeze decree and allow withdrawals from the disputed account.

But things become more difficult if the alleged terrorist funds are deposited in domestic or Philippine-registered banks. Bush's executive order will have to go through a maze of diplomatic and legal processes be-

fore it can accomplish, if at all, its objective of draining the pond from which Osama bin Laden's people draw their water.

Diplomatic channels

For starters, the Bush EO will be sent to the Department of State, which is the equivalent of our Department of Foreign Affairs, for the commencement of diplomatic procedures.

The state department will, in turn, endorse the EO to its Philippine counterpart with a "request" that the appropriate action be taken to meet the purpose for which it was issued.

Upon receipt of the state department's letter, the DFA will endorse it to the Department of Justice so the latter can initiate the moves to attach, garnish or confiscate the bank accounts of the Abu Sayyaf.

But without an anti-money laundering law in place and the Secrecy in Bank Deposits Law firmly in force in this country, Bush's freeze order with regard to Abu Sayyaf funds might as well be considered a mere scrap of paper.

Where funds are

Searching for the bank accounts where the Abu Sayyaf may have parked the fruits of its terrorist activities will be the justice department's first major problem.

The Abu Sayyaf leadership is not stupid. A group of bandits that has managed to run rings around military generals knows how to preserve and protect its money.

The millions of pesos and dollars it earned from its kidnapping activities are deposited in accounts under the names of nondescript persons or dummy corporations.

The names "Janjalani," "Abu Abaya," and of other members who had made known their identity to the media will certainly not be found in the banks' signature forms.

So what names will the justice department be searching for to trace the terrorists' funds? It cannot go around asking the banks if they have accounts of suspicious character or may have come from questionable sources.

Exceptions don't apply

The banks can ignore those in-

quiries and fall back on the Secrecy of Bank Deposits Law to justify their uncooperative stance. The law considers bank deposits as of an "absolutely confidential nature" and therefore cannot be looked into except in four instances.

But these exceptions do not apply to the alleged Abu Sayyaf funds. First, who is the ASG leader or representative who will give written permission for his accounts to be examined by the government? Their appearance will be a one-way ticket to arrest or physical elimination.

Second, there is no impeachment case in progress to which the suspected terrorist accounts may be linked.

Third, no court will issue an order to banks to reveal possible Abu Sayyaf deposits because the law provides that it can direct the banks to break the confidentiality of bank accounts only "in cases of bribery or dereliction of duty of public officials."

The bandits are facing charges other than bribery or dereliction of

duty of public officials so this exception cannot be invoked by the justice department.

Finally, the Abu Sayyaf funds are not "money deposited or invested" that is the subject matter of a litigation. In this particular exception, the money deposited in the bank should be the very center of a court case between the contending parties, like determining its true ownership, before the banks can be compelled to disclose its existence.

What case to file?

Let us assume the justice department is able to identify the Abu Sayyaf accounts and secure a court order compelling the depository banks to reveal the details of the deposits.

The next big problem to be confronted by the government is what case to file against the Abu Sayyaf leaders to justify the seizure or confiscation of its funds.

In the absence of an anti-money laundering law that would have made such action easy to take, the only way that money can be legally for-

feited in favor of the government is if it is proven in court that it constitutes the fruits or proceeds of a crime.

That description will rightfully apply to the deposits after the bandits have been tried and convicted of kidnapping, murder and other crimes that enabled them to amass the money deposited in the banks.

It is true criminal charges have been filed against some bandit leaders, but unfortunately the cases have yet to move because the people who allegedly committed them are still romping around the forests of Basilan and Sulu.

Considering the turtle pace of our judicial system, securing the kind of conviction that will authorize the confiscation of bloodstained money will take years, if not decades, to accomplish.

Between now and the enactment of a strong anti-money laundering law, which Congress is rushing to meet the deadline on Friday, the Abu Sayyaf has reason to feel confident that their bank accounts are safe from the freeze order of the US president.

US TV limits use of images of destruction

(From page A1)

cisco area television station. "It just numbs everyone to the tragedy. The pictures can make people blasé, making it all feel, well, normal."

Saturation

Images of the horrific destruction saturated the US airwaves immediately following the attacks, but now the US media are wrestling with the use of images of carnage, both fictional and real.

Earlier this month, US news out-

lets continually replayed images of the Sept. 11 disaster. Among the more shocking footage were scenes of airliners knifing into the World Trade Center, followed by the collapse of the landmark 110-story twin towers. Newspapers around the world followed with still pictures of the assaults.

But as the death toll mounted and the true scope of the horror and death began to emerge, North American television networks began easing their use of the images.

The Canadian Broadcasting Corp. halted use of the videos 12 hours after the attacks.

Introspection

The real-life terrorist attacks have sparked introspection about the use of violence in pop culture. With the advent of computer-generated effects, movies and television shows can easily be draped in explosions and digital carnage.

But with the destruction of Sept. 11, those who create entertainment believe audiences will turn away

from violent spectacles, maybe even embracing stories that reflect an affirmation of life, not its destruction.

"Obviously, the World Trade Center attacks are affecting any projects that deal with terrorism or the indiscriminate or unthinking use of firearms or weaponry," said Jason Hoffs, a Los Angeles feature film producer for Sony Pictures.

"I think you'll see a return, at least for the short term, to age-

old themes like honesty, loyalty and betrayal.

"America feels like it took a sucker punch," Hoffs added. "Now audiences will probably look for stories about what's important for life."

Hoffs said it will be a welcome change.

"Big studio films have been relatively mindless," he said. "Hopefully, this will change. It would be something good to come out of all this,"

Movie producers and television entertainment executives had rushed to halt distribution of movies that carried a violent theme, fearing they would traumatize audiences or open up movie studios to charges of bad taste.

Explosion-filled US television series slated for their season debut have been put on hold or are being edited to remove troubling images, such as "The Agency," an action series about the CIA that opens with a bomb attack.

RAIDING THE HOUSE OF THE GODS

Civil Society Call for the Passage of a Responsive and Effective Anti-Money Laundering Law

These are trying times.

The internationalization of illegal trade, organized crime and corrupt practices and their expansion into all sectors of society, the economy and government have recently called attention to the issue of money laundering. In the Philippines, the issue takes on even greater importance in light of the renewed campaign against drug trafficking, smuggling, kidnapping and graft and corruption, all of which have serious security, political, economic and social implications.

We, members of civil society and the religious, call for active participation and vigilance in advocating the enactment of a responsive and effective anti-money laundering legislation NOW!

The anti-money laundering law should provide for the criminalization of money laundering, including appropriate administrative and procedural rules for the detection, prevention and prosecution of related activities. Further, the law should define the scope of institutions, and penalty for money laundering offenses. It should direct the creation of an independent and autonomous government unit or agency that will receive and analyze suspicious transaction reports. It should provide for inter-governmental assistance in detecting, investigating and prosecuting money laundering activities, and recovering laundered money.

Most importantly, it should amend bank secrecy laws to allow inquiries into bank accounts for money laundering investigations. In line with this, covered financial institutions and business entities should be required to report suspicious transactions. These institutions should also ensure that the true owners of all bank accounts are properly identified and recorded.

Sanctions for remaining in the category of Non-Cooperative Countries and Territories in the fight against money laundering will greatly affect the nation. Millions of families of overseas Filipino workers will suffer once restrictive policies are enforced in connection with the remittance of their incomes. Moreover, banks believe that their foreign counterparts will impose sanctions that will further weaken the economy. This would include a reduction in grants, difficult access to credit, a more stringent policy in the issuance of visas and negative investment advisories.

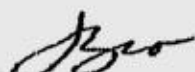
The fight against money laundering opens a wide space for heightened legislative and executive engagement by civil society, the religious sector and government. We believe in upholding the integrity of our economic and political institutions. We seek to weave a society based on honest and transparent governance, and on honest and fair trade. We strongly resist the criminal use of our government and our banking system. We refuse to submit our future to the dictates of drug lords, gambling lords, smugglers, thieves and grafters. In a democratizing country like ours, there is no room for money launderers.

We will work toward ensuring that greater transparency and accountability are exacted from our lawmakers and that civil society and the religious sector meaningfully participate in a landmark legislation that impacts on the lives of the ordinary citizens. We will organize an Anti-Money Laundering Watch Group in both Houses of Congress from the time Congress opens on September 24 until it passes a law on Anti-Money Laundering. We will also take an active part in the formulation of its implementing rules and regulations. We will work at making the process of selecting the members of the critical Anti-Money Laundering Council or Task Force more transparent and ensuring that only individuals with independence and integrity are appointed by the President. We will wage a sustained information and education campaign on Anti-Money Laundering.

It is time to end money laundering in the Philippines.

It is time to take decisive action against abusers of public trust.

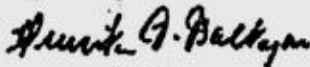
We therefore urgently call on members of the 12th Congress to immediately legislate an Anti-Money Laundering Bill that is pro-poor, fights corruption, penalizes money laundering and prevents the expansion of organized crime.



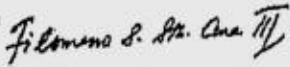
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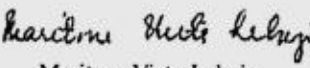
Obet Pagdanganan



Teresita Baltazar



Filomeno Sta. Ana, III
Action for Economic Reforms



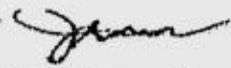
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AKBAYAN



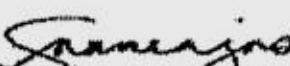
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Archdiocese of Manila
Catholic Dormitory Ministry



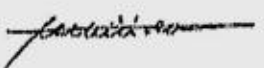
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Association for Non-Traditional
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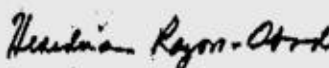
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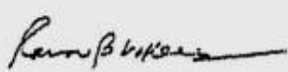
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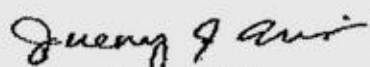
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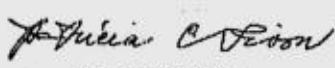
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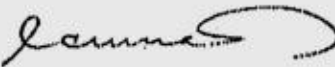
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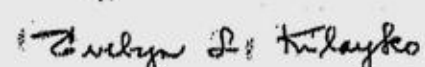
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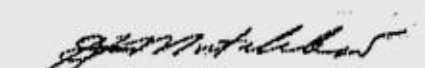
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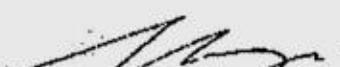
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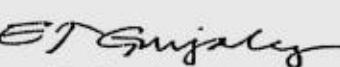
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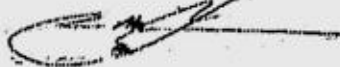
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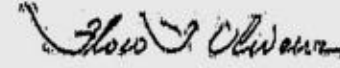
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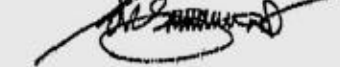
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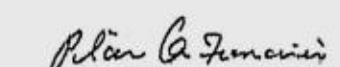
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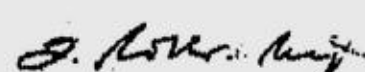
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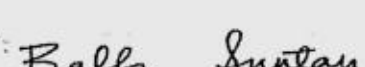
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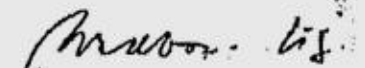
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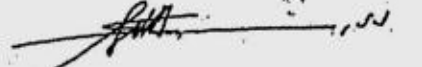
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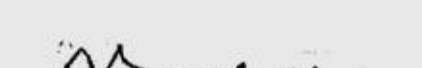
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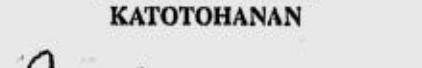
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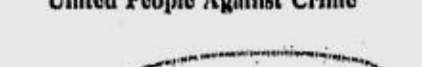
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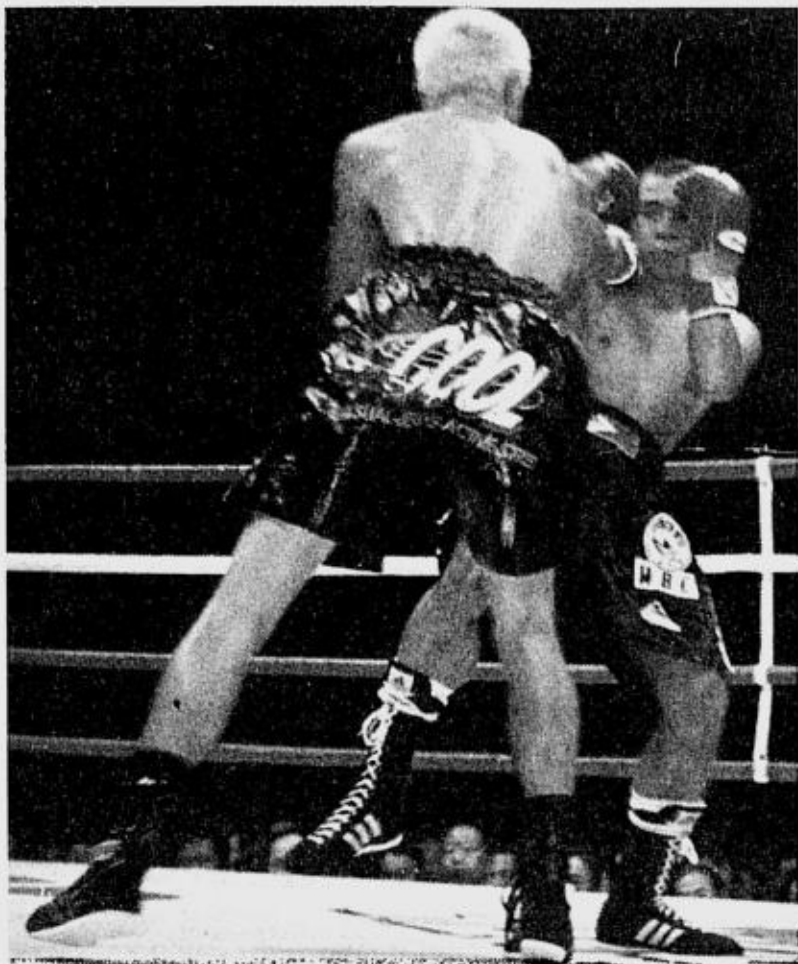
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KOIZUMI BEING TAPPED

We do not have the chemistry—Salud



BLOOD drips from Peñalosa's head cut.



PEÑALOSA (right) backpedals as Tokuyama applies pressure.

PHOTOS/ALS. MENDOZA

"BITTER as it is, I guess my partnership with Gerry has got to end. We seem not to have the proper chemistry."

A day after the "Tumble in Tokyo" where Gerry Peñalosa lost in his second bid to recapture his World Boxing Council superflyweight crown, Rudy Salud said he might yet call it quits in boxing.

"No, I'm not disappointed," said Salud. "It's just that maybe, Gerry and I are not meant for each other."

The 29-year-old Peñalosa lost by unanimous decision to Japan-born North Korean Masamori Tokuyama on Monday in a bloody 12-round brawl at the Yokohama Arena that saw Peñalosa suffer five injuries on head-butts.



SALUD

Next move

"I don't want much to dwell on the fight anymore," said Salud yesterday upon arrival from Tokyo. "As I said, the judges have made a decision. My opinion will not matter anymore. Life has got to move on. My immediate attention now is to work on Gerry's next move. I assure our people that I will leave Gerry only in the care of another person whom I trust will not exploit him. I honestly believe he can still win the world title."

The Sunday debacle was Peñalosa's second failed attempt to wrest the 115-pound crown he won in 1997, also in Tokyo. The first one was against In Joo Cho, a South Korean, in 1998 in Seoul.

"As I said, I've done everything to make Gerry a challenger for the second time," said Salud, Peñalosa's manager of almost three years. "I've even overstepped the bounds as to work extra time to follow-up world requirements for Gerry's fight. I've traveled to four countries chasing officials to solicit their help. As everyone knows, it is not easy clinching a title fight, especially in the case of Gerry whom I had gotten two championship fights in a span of less than two years. Not to brag but that was almost impossible to achieve."

He said that after a thorough soul-searching, he thought he and Peñalosa were not bound to tango together.

"Through the short time that Gerry and I were together, we have become very, very close," said Salud. "He has become family to us already, including Goody (Gerry's common-law wife). He, Goody and their son Julio Cesar came to our house every Sunday to join my kids and 13 grandchildren in our regular weekend family reunion. Perhaps, God has other designs for Gerry—minus me."

Initial talks

Salud has made initial talks with Japanese manager-promoter Joe Koizumi, handler of promising Filipino fighter Randy Suico, after Sunday's ill-fated fight. Salud said he wanted to involve Koizumi in Peñalosa's career.

It will be remembered that after Luisito Espinosa parted ways with manager Hermie Rivera in the '90s, Koizumi stepped in and handled Espinosa, who became a world champion again not long after.

Salud said he had briefed Peñalosa about the Koizumi option.

"I have given Gerry the lowdown already about the plan and I told him and Goody to study the matter thoroughly before they make their final decision. It will be a sad day when indeed Gerry and I will end our partnership soon. But then, it will not be the end of the world. We will remain family and that should be the case forever. May God bless him always."

Al S. Mendoza

Headbutt

GERRY Peñalosa had just had a sashimi dinner in a downtown Asakusa restaurant in Tokyo about three hours after he lost his bid to reclaim the World Boxing Council superflyweight crown on Sunday when, suddenly, he remembered it.

SPECTATOR



Al S.

Mendoza

Walking out of the restaurant, with a chilly autumn wind wafting in the air, Gerry told his manager Rudy Salud within hearing distance of the members of the RP contingent, including Sen. Ramon Revilla and Luis "Chavi" Singson:

"Suddenly, I got dizzy. I could barely see a thing. I noticed a black thing moving by me. And then I heard the bell. And I saw, barely, the shadows of my two brothers waving at me."

That, in a capsule, describes best the complexion of that ill-fated fight.

The black thing was the black short pants of Masamori Tokuyama, who beat Peñalosa in 12 rounds, the last 8 of which were filled with blood. Peñalosa's blood. I got a splatter of his blood, hitting my shirt and the table while I covered the fight at ringside.

The victory allowed the Japan-born North Korean to keep his WBC superflyweight crown at the Yokohama Arena.

The "shadows," by the way, were Dodie Boy and Erbing Peñalosa.

Peñalosa got a jarring headbutt in the middle round and the impact was such that he said he almost lost consciousness. It was his forehead that got hit; by the ninth, it swelled gruesomely.

Gerry said the blood oozing from his four wounds due to head-butts—in the pate, right eyelid and two in the left eyebrow—aggravated the situation.

"I couldn't see him clearly," he said. "I knew he was there, but I found it hard to nail him down. Never did he hurt me with his punches. It was his head that hurt me."

In the lockers, he told me he got head-butted "at least six times." After the sashimi-sushi dinner, he said, "Kulang pa iyong anim. Di ko na mabilang."

Bruce McTavish, the renowned boxing referee from New Zealand living in Angeles City, said referee Larry O'Connell warned Tokuyama 11 times for headbutting.

"What O'Connell failed to do was follow up his warnings with points deductions against Tokuyama," said McTavish who, on the flight home, "fell in love" with PAL stewardess Emma Marie Therese Penaverde at business class where he was seated.

"I don't care if my wife will get jealous," he told me. "Emma Marie is such a wondrous stewardess that I fell in love with her at first sight."

But going back to the fight, fellas. Tokuyama had reportedly admitted that he almost quit in the ninth round when he got tagged in the tummy.

Indeed, Gerry went to the body beginning in the ninth against his much taller opponent. He connected with some good shots. Unfortunately, he couldn't deliver the finishing blows.

"Really, Kuya, I couldn't see him that much," said Gerry. "I was mainly relying on instinct after I had that terrible headbutt."

Can Atletas rebuild itself?

WITH First Gentleman Mike Arroyo providing his full support, the dormant Atletas project of the Philippine Sports Commission is being revived with more vigor and vitality, hoping to lift the spirits of stout-hearted Filipino athletes who are honing their skills for future international meets, including next year's Asian Games in Pusan, Korea.

Similar in many ways to the successful Project Director program of Gintong Alay under imperious Michael Keon in 1970, Atletas will tap private corporations of goodwill and individuals of substantial means to help in the training of at least 15 selected sports capable of winning the gold medals in international meets.

Already in the short list are athletics, the toast of the recent 21st Southeast Asian Games with its eight-gold medal haul; taekwondo, wushu, bowling and medal-rich disciplines like swimming and boxing even if the last two were a big letdown in the recent SEA Games for failing to win a single gold medal.

PSC chair Carlos "Butch" Tuason said outstanding Filipino athletes, the SEA Games gold medal winners in particular, will be harnessed to undergo rigorous training and compete in world-class tournaments abroad to get them ready for major meets such as the 2001 Asia Games in Pusan, the 2003 SEA Games in

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo



Vietnam and the 2004 Olympics in Athens.

Among the private business firms which have been extending widespread support to sports are San Miguel Corp., Caltex, Petron, Coca-Cola, Red Bull, Pacific Heights and, more recently, Kaibigan ni GMA Foundation, which handed out cash bonuses to all the SEA Games medal winners. These SEAG medalists, by the way, have been invited by the Philippine Basketball Association headed by commissioner Jun Bernardino as the special guests of today's PBA games at the Philsports Arena in Pasig City. Last Sunday, a Thanksgiving Mass was held in their honor at the Edsa Shrine, with newly appointed auxiliary bishop of Manila Rev. Socrates Villegas officiating.

AFP HEROES—Of the 30 gold medals won by the Philippines in the recent 21st Southeast Asian Games, seven were won by soldiers, all of them members of Go Teng Kok's

elite track and field team, also known as GTK Army. "They not only made the military proud but the entire country as well," said Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva. The gold medalists aside from no-quit Elma Muros-Posadas, a petty officer third class of the Navy; and diminutive Eduardo Buenavista of the Air Force were Fidel Gallenero of the Navy (decathlon), Ernie Candelario of the Air Force (400-meter run), John Lozada (800 m run) and Roy Vence (marathon), both of the Navy.

Muros-Posadas particularly deserves special mention. Following her defeat in the long jump simply because her body has slowly broke down after nearly two decades of competition, the 34-year-old Elma bounced back to win the gold in the seven-event heptathlon, an event where she had little or no preparation at all. On the other hand, 22-year-old Buenavista, who stands a little over five feet, stood clearly above the rest, winning the golds in the 3,000-meter steeplechase and the 5000m run. "He is phenomenal," said a beaming and proud Go Teng Kok. "As a matter of fact, Buenavista would be our bet in the Asian Games in Pusan, South Korea, next year."

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Sports dep't backed

PHILIPPINE Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit yesterday said sports officials are supporting the filing of a bill creating the Department of Youth and Sports in the House of Representatives.

The move would eventually heighten sports development in the country considering the scope and power of a department compared to an agency like the existing Philippine Sports Commission.

However, Dayrit said it is not clear whether the department would take the PSC's place or the agency would still operate under the department, taking on specific tasks of sports training.

If ever, this will be the first time a bill was proposed to create a department solely on youth and sports, according to Dayrit.

At present, government's sports development programs are hinged on the PSC and the Department of Education, Culture and Sports.

"There are countries which have department of sports," said Dayrit, "Like Malaysia and probably Indonesia. That is definitely a big boost for sports."

Still, Dayrit said there should be a smaller unit within the department focusing on training and promotion of sports similar to Gintong Alay back in the '80s. Marc Anthony Reyes

Alaska battles Gin; SMB tackles Text

GAMES TODAY (PhilSports Arena)
5:05p.m.—Ginebra vs Alaska
7:10p.m.—SMB vs Talk N Text

By JUNE NAVARRO

ALASKA, parading a new import in Dexter Boney today, tackles Barangay Ginebra in the PBA Governors Cup at the PhilSports Arena.

Boney, a one-time CBA All-Star MVP who suited up for the Pop Cola Panthers in 1998, is expected to end the Aces' skid starting with the Kings, whom they will meet at 5:05 p.m.

He replaced Sean Chambers, Alaska's many-time reinforcement who could no longer keep up with the break-neck pace brand of play in the league.

With Chambers at the helm, the Aces dropped their last three outings.

The Kings had their share of miseries after a successful debut against Tanday. They suffered twin setbacks opposite Purefoods and San Miguel Beer.

Later in the night, San Miguel Beer will test the resolve of the Talk N Text Phone Pals, who are off to a 3-0 start.

The Phone Pals will shoot for a share of the lead with Sta. Lucia Realty, while the Beermen try to forget their 96-95 defeat at the hands of the Panthers in Antipolo City last week.

That setback dropped the Beermen to solo second at 2-1, half a game ahead of the Panthers and the Hotdogs, who, at 2-2, are bunched at third.

"The game against San Miguel will gauge the strength and character of the team. This will be our first big test," said Talk N Text coach Louie Alas moments after the Phone Pals humiliated the Aces, 87-84, last Friday.

Cardona top rookie

THE UAAP Press Corps yesterday voted La Salle's scoring machine Mark Cardona as this year's Rookie of the Year.

Ren Ren Ritualo also won overwhelmingly as this year's Most Valuable Player, beating Ateneo's Rich Alvarez, who won as Defensive Player of the Year.

Dennis U. Erosa

Epondulan named MVP

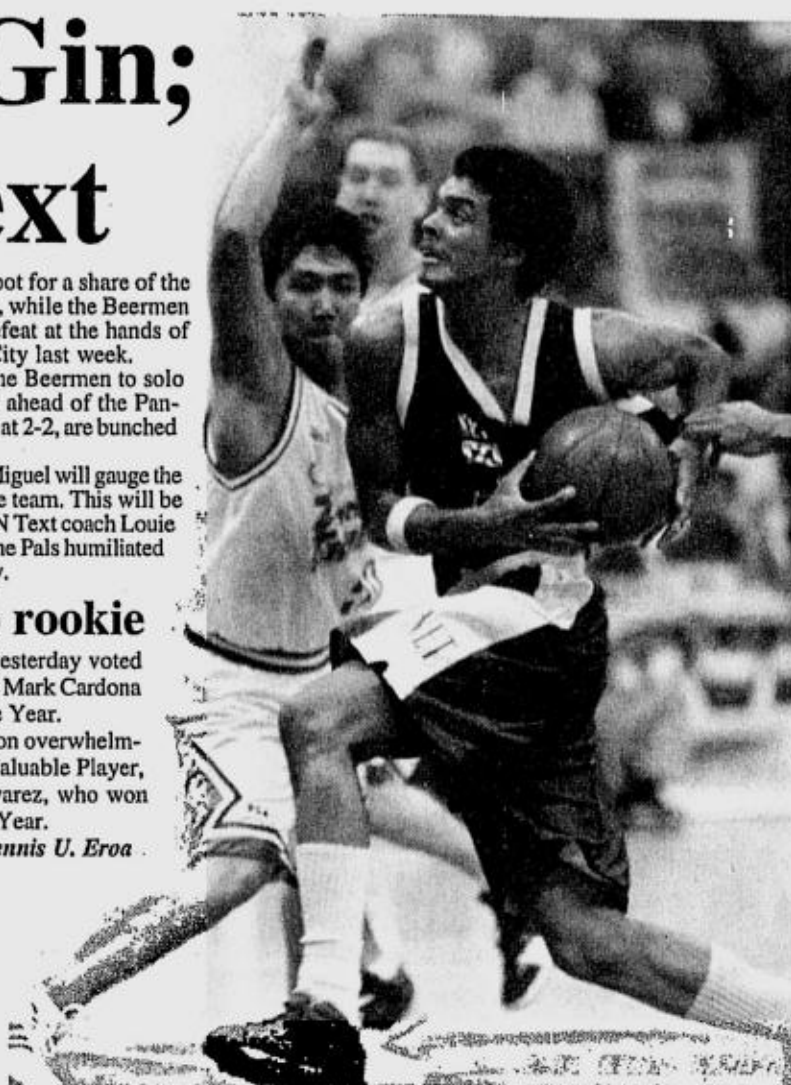
SWINGMAN Ernani Epondulan, Jose Rizal University's prolific scorer, was named this year's Most Valuable Player after bringing the Heavy Bombers to the Finals of the 77th NCAA men's basketball tournament.

Epondulan ran away with the MVP plum after garnering a total of 25.30

Player's All-around Value aside from the votes cast by the NCAA board.

"This is a big accomplishment for me. But an MVP is worthless without a championship title," said the 21-year-old Epondulan in Tagalog.

The Heavy Bombers will meet San Sebastian College tomorrow in a best-of-three titular face-off.



STA. Lucia Realty's Damien Owens (right) drives against Shell's Dale Singson during their PBA game Sunday at the PhilSports Arena. The Realtors prevailed, 109-96.

ROMY HOMILADA

Rotary golf Friday

THE FIRST leg team champion the Rotary Club of Parañaque Southwest under president Joseph Sison and the Rotary Club of Parañaque East under president Francis V. Gustillo will host the second leg of the Governor's Cup at Eagleridge Aoki course, Gen. Trias Cavite this Friday Sept. 28. Tee off is 6:30-9 a.m.

Majority of the Rotary Clubs from district 3830 under Gov. Ernie L. Salas have already signified their participation.

Modified Stable Ford system will be used for the guests division. Separate trophies for the Platinum Presidents of District 3830 will be contested.

A 125cc motorcycle is the hole-in-one prize, while a 50cc motorcycle is up for grabs in the grand raffle.

Tournament chair are Rotarian Carlito Chua for RC Parañaque Southwest and Ernie Angeles for RC Parañaque East.

Welcoat Paints, Daye-FMC Automotive Corp., Plaridel Surety & Insurance Co., Rovet Int'l. Ent. and Hillmark Construction are the major sponsors of the event.

BASEBALL RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE				
	W	L	Pct	GB
NY Yankees	89	60	.597	
Boston	75	73	.507	1 1/2
Toronto	74	76	.493	1 1/2
Baltimore	59	90	.396	30
Tampa Bay	53	96	.356	36
Central				
Cleveland	86	65	.570	
Minnesota	79	71	.527	6 1/2
Chicago White Sox	76	72	.512	7 1/2
Detroit	61	89	.407	24 1/2
Kansas City	59	92	.387	27 1/2
West				
Seattle	107	44	.709	
Oakland	92	58	.613	1 1/2
Anaheim	74	76	.493	32 1/2
Texas	70	81	.464	37

NATIONAL LEAGUE				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	80	70	.533	
Philadelphia	75	74	.507	4
Florida	70	80	.467	10
Montreal	64	86	.427	16
Central				
Houston	90	60	.600	
St. Louis	86	66	.563	5 1/2
Chicago	81	69	.540	9
Milwaukee	64	86	.427	28
Cincinnati	61	89	.407	29
Pittsburgh	57	94	.377	33 1/2
West				
Arizona	84	66	.560	
San Francisco	83	68	.550	1 1/2
Los Angeles	80	71	.530	4 1/2
San Diego	74	76	.493	10
Colorado	67	83	.447	17

AMERICAN LEAGUE				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore 5, Boston 1; Toronto 3, Cleveland 2 (11 innings); Detroit 4, Kansas City 2; Seattle 9, Texas 3				
NATIONAL LEAGUE				
	W	L	Pct	GB
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Jordan return

WASHINGTON — Michael Jordan will keep everyone waiting for at least another day.

"Michael has not finalized his decision," said Estee Portnoy, vice president of marketing and client services for SFX, Jordan's management agency.

"Nothing is going to be announced today," she said Monday.

A statement from Jordan outlining the reasons for his comeback was being fine-tuned and won't be released until Tuesday at the earliest.

For now, the question remains "When?" not "Will He?"

AP

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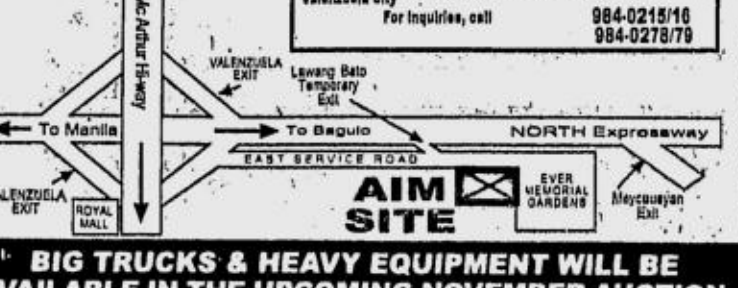
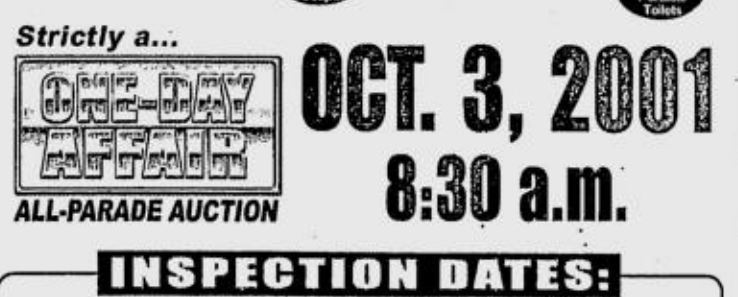
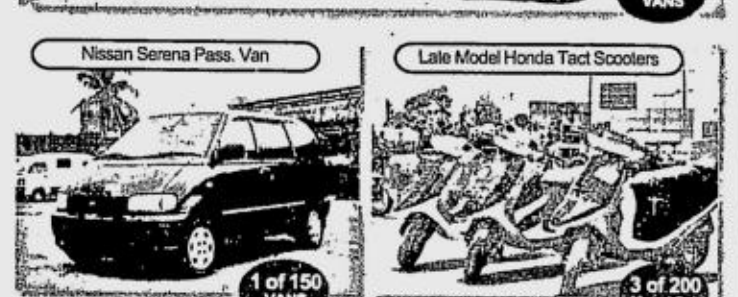
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Bonds closes in on Mac

LOS ANGELES — Barry Bonds hit his 67th home run Monday, putting him within three of Mark McGwire's major league record, and Livan Hernandez (13-14) pitched seven innings of three-hit ball as the San Francisco Giants defeated the Los Angeles Dodgers 2-1. McGwire set the single-season record of 70 homers three years ago. Bonds was 1-for-3 with two walks, one intentional, and the homer off James Baldwin (2-5) in the seventh inning. *AP*

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ■ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

4-stag derby finals tonight

ZAMBOANGA'S Manny Dalipe, former Rep. Dennis Roldan, Mayor Nic Patenia and upcoming Carding Ng made their presence felt yesterday as their entries scored two wins each to give the leaders a run for their money in the NCA 7-Stag Derby at the Araneta Coliseum. The four-stag finals will be held tonight.

LBC meets Ecija

Games Today
San Luis Sports Complex
3:00 p.m.—Nueva Ecija
vs LBC Batangas
5:30 p.m.—Cebuana
Lhuillier vs FedEx
Laguna

RAZOR-SHARP LBC Batangas Blades target the solo lead against the Nueva Ecija Patriots at 3 p.m. today in the MBA Second Phase at the San Luis Sports Complex in Sta. Cruz, Laguna.

The Blades, powered by national players Romel Adducul and Eddie Laure and Alex Compton have won their first three games, two at the expense of the FedEx Laguna Lakers, to share the lead with the idle Negros Slashers.

LBC Batangas has been installed the favorite as Nueva Ecija is coming from a 111-99 loss to Negros.

To make up for the absence of Fil-Am Stephen Antonio, who flew to the United States to attend to pressing family problems, LBC Batangas coach Nash Racela has given Peter Martin and Chris Corbin more playing time.

FedEx Laguna tries to get back on track when it meets Cebuana Lhuillier in the 5:30 p.m. opener.

Though Fil-Am's Chris Clay and Jeffrey Flowers have been delivering the goods, the Lakers have been beaten twice by the Blades en route to a 1-2 record.

To check their skid, the Lakers must also draw points from the local gunners like Biboy Simon and Richard Melencio.

Despite the absence of Matthew Mitchell, who suddenly left for the United States, the Gems remain formidable with Peter Naron, Stephen Padilla and Homer Se at the helm.

Saddled by injuries, the Gems bowed to the Patriots, 90-81, on Sept. 2.

Meantime, The Professional Group and the Davao Eagles will formalize their partnership in the MBA today. To be decided upon is the name the Eagles will carry this conference. *Roy Luarda*

'Bata' guest

BILLIARDS king Efren "Bata" Reyes will head the guest list when The Venue, Davao City's ultimate entertainment center, celebrates its first anniversary next month. Reyes will play against local cue masters and will also do the ceremonial tapping of the beer oak barrel for San Miguel Beer's Oktoberfest. There will also be a Halloween party with Patricia Javier and Gladys and the Boxers with K on Oct. 31. For details, call 082-2229435, 224-4150-51.

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY
LORENZO MANGUIAT

GOLF: LPGA Williams Championship, Final Round at 7 a.m. (r) on ESPN

PGA Marconi Pennsylvania Classic, Third Round at 2 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

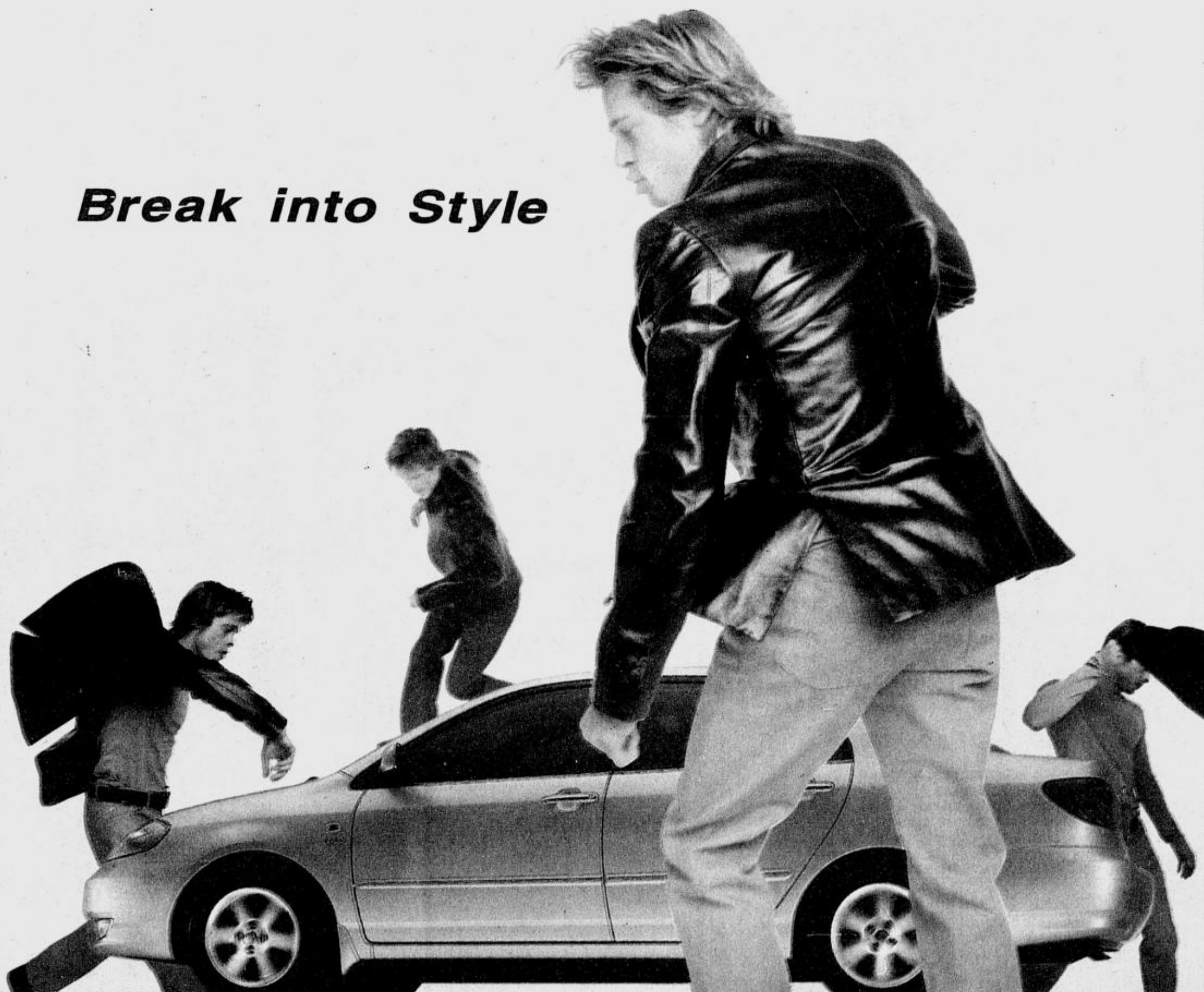
LPGA - The Safeway Classic, Second Round at midnight on ESPN

BASEBALL: Baseball Max at 3:30 p.m. on ESPN

BADMINTON: JVC Asian Badminton Championships at 10 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

TENNIS: ATP Tennis Show at 5 p.m. (r) on ESPN

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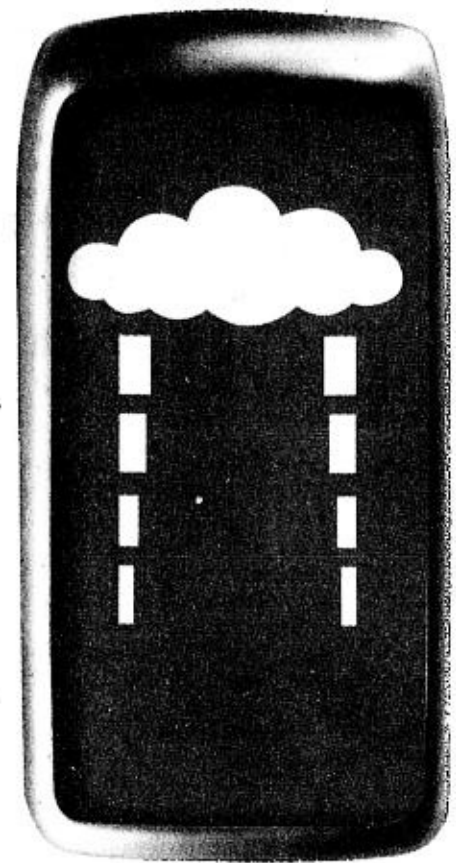
LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Muslims want to arm selves, say police A26
Bare Eye: How much of Gerry Peñalosa was in the title bout? A26

'Drug queen' Yu Yuk Lai sentenced to life Page 27



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COMBO NOVALICHES D.C.	ZYNAXIS MR. ROXY/FAT 16	NO ENTRANCE FEE 936.9757
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Example: QUIZ 1A

How much of Gerry Peñalosa was in the title bout?

IT SHOULD have been a draw if points were deducted for headbutting, thought the elder of the two fight commentators, the one with the whistling foreign accent.

The younger, better-looking broadcaster, also a famous columnist, suggested a possible rematch. Would Gerry Peñalosa seek another fight with his sharp, sly conqueror, WBC super flyweight champion Masamori Tokuyama? Or would Peñalosa retire, as he had vowed if he failed again in the title quest?

Peñalosa was in Yokohama Monday night in a bid to sow terror in the ring and reclaim the WBC 115-pound crown.

However, by the end of the 12-round encounter, Peñalosa, slower on his feet, often puzzled and indecisive, appeared every inch like the victim of a terror bomb blast.

His face was a gory Halloween mask. He had cuts on his eyebrows and forehead, the ugly

mask half-covered by his blood.

He failed to fight the way he should and ended up pitifully vanquished.

As could be expected, Peñalosa was given the first crack to explain his sad fate.

Why, for example, did he end up often on the receiving end of the furious, sometimes foul, exchanges?

He told reporters he could not see clearly. There were instances late in the fight when his foe appeared like a speck. He blamed his indecisiveness on the profuse bleeding of his wounded eyebrows.

He did face a horned menace in Tokuyama, who oftentimes appeared sharper with his headbutts than with his fists.

Peñalosa claimed he had been gored no less than six times, but he evidently refused to retaliate with similar foul tactics.

He didn't have to be asked, but Peñalosa later added Tokuyama should have been disqualified.

Funny, but win or lose, it's the

BARE EYE

Recall
Trinidad



fate of fighters to be interrogated by all sorts of people after a big bout, or upon his homecoming.

Don't know if I would be able to catch him. Peñalosa should be given all the time in the world to rest and rethink his future in boxing.

But, given the chance, I would ask him how much he felt he was inside the ring in Yokohama Monday night.

This could sound somewhat puzzling but it's a simple matter of percentages.

Did he, for example, feel a hundred percent before the championship bout?

It would indeed be very interest-

ing to know what had caused the deterioration of his power, speed and skills during the title fight.

I could claim I had seen, live, Gerry fight his best bouts.

He was a superb craftsman in Tokyo when he outpointed hometown legend Hiroshi Kamashima to capture the WBC super flyweight crown. It was the dead of winter in February 1997 but Gerry blazed his way to glory, as though he was to the cruel Tokyo winter born.

Later that year, Rex Wakee Salud, the manager behind Gerry's world-title conquest, signed Peñalosa up for a non-title bout at the Foxwoods Casino Resort in Connecticut.

Gerry manhandled former North American Boxing Federation flyweight champion Polo Saucedo.

Young, luminous, sharp, Peñalosa drew raves from discriminating American fight experts. Roy Jones Jr., who was at ringside, received Peñalosa with a warm embrace and exclaimed: "I want you to be in one of my own championship cards."

Even in that holdup of a bout in Seoul, Gerry performed well despite being declared the loser in his rematch with the Korean run-run artist In Joo-cho on Jan. 2, 2000.

Now, this has not been brought up in the open but Gerry was to tell me later that Cho's defeat in the hands of Tokuyama last May was heaven-sent. Peñalosa's reason: Tokuyama would be easier to handle because he doesn't run as much as Cho did.

It was easy to believe that. And, as could be expected, Peñalosa's handlers, headed by the amiable lawyer-sportsman Rudy Salud, pumped in everything possible, including a special dietician, to prime up Gerry for the crown challenge in Yokohama last Monday.

Expectations here at home were on a record high for a Peñalosa triumph.

But, contrary to hometown wishes and prayers, things did not turn out too well for Peñalosa as the fight wore on. The champion, who was a very sly, very slippery target,

was outfoxing him.

Tokuyama did not only use his height edge to the hilt, he also moved a lot swifter on his nimble feet, often leaving the challenger looking lost and desperate.

Peñalosa got gored, wounded, gored again, while the referee simply played it blind.

Of course, Peñalosa was not one to give up easily. He continued his gallant chase, getting more furious in the final two rounds.

He plodded on visibly slower legs. He pushed on and on, almost blindly.

Until the final bell, however, Peñalosa was unsuccessful in his search.

He could not find his old, superb self.

He could have brought terror unto himself.

Maybe he used the wrong road map?

He definitely did his best.

But the best of Gerry Peñalosa, 29, was nowhere inside the ring in Yokohama on that horror Monday.

Muslims want to arm selves, say police

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

MUSLIMS in Metro Manila want to arm themselves in response to the reported rash of indiscriminate arrests that are part of the government crackdown on suspected terrorists.

Various Muslim groups on Monday asked police to allow them to carry guns and have bodyguards to protect themselves against unscrupulous policemen.

"We want to be assured of our security," Prof. Taha Basman, head

of the Philippine Islamic Council, said during a meeting with police directors.

If Muslims want to arm themselves, they should secure proper permits, according to Deputy Dir. Gen. Edgar Galvante, Metro Manila police chief.

But Galvante denied there is a crackdown on Muslims. "A crackdown is meant to target criminals, not Muslims," he told the INQUIRER.

Muslims called for tighter security in their areas following the ar-

rests of a Muslim businessman in Pasig City and a Muslim millionaire in Quiapo, Manila, both for alleged drug trafficking.

Basman and other Muslim organizations claimed the arresting lawmen only meant to extort money from both men.

During Monday's meeting with Galvante, more than 100 Muslims representing various groups in Metro Manila asked authorities to deploy more uniformed policemen in their areas.

The directors of the five police districts of Metro Manila also attended the meeting.

According to Basman, Galvante said he would call for more police visibility in Muslim areas and suggested the setting up of police outposts there.

Galvante also asked Muslims to be more assertive in the face of police abuse. He told them to take pictures and to get the names of police officers who would conduct operations in their areas.

Galvante gave the groups his contact numbers and those of the five district directors in the event of indiscriminate arrests and other abuses.

Muslims were alarmed after the government reportedly launched a crackdown on suspected terrorists following the attacks on the United States.

Last week, about 100 Muslims stormed the Northern Police District headquarters in Caloocan City to demand the release of businessman

Omra Macmac, 33, who was seized by NPD officers from his Pasig residence for alleged drug trafficking.

Basman said the arrest could have been another case of "hulidap" if the Muslims did not intervene.

Basman said that a week before Macmac's arrest, police arrested another Muslim businessman in Manila.

The businessman, he said, was released after paying P500,000 and giving a Toyota Tamaraw FX van and Revo vans to the arresting officers.

DOH needs P90 million for fire safety steps

THE DEPARTMENT of Health on Monday announced that more than P90 million is needed to make the country's major government hospitals fire-safe in accordance with the standards of the Bureau of Fire Safety and Management.

Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit said the fire safety installations needed at the Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center, San Lazaro Hospital, Tondo Medical Center and Fabella Memorial Hospital require at least six months to complete.

"We have to look for other budgetary sources for these fire safety measures," Dayrit said in a news conference at the DOH headquarters in Manila. "We have some ideas but it is premature to announce them right now."

He said the DOH recognizes the

importance of complying with the requirements of the fire bureau to prevent a repeat of the Quezon City Manor Hotel fire that killed more than 70 people on Aug. 18.

"The hospital with the most expensive requirement is Jose Reyes with a P43 million total," Dayrit said.

SLH needs P25 million, TMCP11 million, and FMH P10 million, he said.

Director Rebecca Pinafiel said most of the P90 million would go to the installation of automatic sprinklers in all four hospitals. She said the sprinklers cost P83 million.

The fire-safety requirements include fire ramps, alarm systems, battery-operated emergency lights, fire escape renovation and new fire extinguishers.

Norman Bordadora



KARATE KIDS

These little boys have a novel way of spending their Sundays. They train in martial arts, aided by a young woman holding a kicking pad, at the Manuel L. Quezon Memorial Circle in Quezon City. DENNIS SABANGAN

Trisectoral congress

THE NATIONAL Social Action Council (Nasac), a trisectoral non-profit public foundation of government, private and interfaith sectors, will hold its 32nd founding anniversary by convening the 9th National Trisectoral Congress and electing a new set of officers for 2001-2004 on Sept. 25-26, 2001 at the AFP Commissioned Officers Club in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City with the theme "Tulong-tulong sa Pag-angat ng Lipunan" ("Cooperative Action for Social Upliftment").

About 300 delegates are expected to attend the congress, according to Nasac steering committee chair Sonia Saldivar-Ronda.

Invited to speak are Philip Ella Juico, president and of MIC Holdings Corp. on "strengthening the trisectoral approach toward poverty alleviation"; Bishop Efraim M. Tendaro, national director, Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches, on "reemergence of the moral and spiritual values to enhance reforms in public service"; and Sultan Macapantong Y. Abbas Jr., chair of the Islamic Directorate of the Philippines, on "Pamahalaan, Simbahan, Kalakalan: Sama-sama sa Kapayapaan, Kaligtasan at Kaunlaran."

Nasac was created under Executive Order No. 182-A of May 1, 1969, based on the conviction that a trisectoral collaboration approach toward social, economic and spiritual development should be institutionalized and made permanent.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, September 26, 2001
25th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading:
Gospel:

Ezra 9:5-9
Lk 9:1-6

Jesus called his twelve disciples and gave them power and authority to drive out all evil spirits and to heal diseases. And he sent them to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick. He instructed them, "Don't take anything for the journey, neither walking stick, nor bag, nor bread, nor silver coins; and don't even take a spare tunic. Whatever house you enter, remain there until you leave that place. And wherever they don't welcome you, leave the town and shake the dust from your feet: it will be as a testimony against them."

So they set out and went through the villages, proclaiming the good news and healing people everywhere.

Commentary

The short gospel passage describes Jesus sending away the apostles to proclaim the reign of God and cure diseases. The attentive reader will notice the three occurrences of the word healing/curing. Healing the sick and curing their diseases is intimately connected with the proclamation of the reign of God. Healing occurs as the good news is proclaimed. In this modern world, the sick are often the most neglected people. Even our very own sick relatives are not given enough time. We hardly find time to visit them. We are swallowed up by the system of the world where quality time is for making money, not for spreading the gospel and healing the sick. God reminds us of our Christian duty.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (EVIDENCE)—Evaluation by the trial court of the testimonies of the witnesses—The evaluation of the testimonies of witnesses is chiefly the function of the trial court. When there is no indication that patent inconsistencies have been overlooked or that the conclusions reached are unsupported by the evidence, the trial court's evaluation of the credibility of witnesses must be accorded the highest respect. This is for no other reason than that the trial court had the opportunity to observe the demeanor of the witnesses while testifying. Accused-appellants have not shown any reason for the Court to overturn these findings of the trial court. The witnesses had no motive to testify falsely against accused-appellants. Hence, their testimonies are entitled to full faith and credit. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Mendoza, Second Division, People v. Galo, G.R. No. 132025, January 16, 2001]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

Consumers protest vs Maynilad price hike

BY CHRISTINE HERRERA

CONSUMER groups have declared war against the Lopez-owned Maynilad Water Services Inc., condemning what they described as the firm's "dagdag-presyo, bawas-serbisyo" (higher price for lesser services)" practice in its bid to increase current water charges to at least P4.75 per cubic meter.

Maynilad's current basic rate per cubic meter of water is P6.58, plus P2.59 for other charges. With the proposed increase, the basic rate per cubic meter of water would rise to as much as P11, excluding other charges.

"According to a water rate increase is tantamount to (the consumers) bailing out the Lopezes and rewarding them for their inefficiency in running the water distribution (system)," said Ma. Theresa "Maitet" Diokno-Pascual, president of the Freedom from Debt Coalition, one of the consumer groups fighting the rate increase.

She said it was "unconscionable" that Maynilad would increase its rate when its non-revenue water (NRW) due to

pilferage increased from 58 percent to 66 percent after the company was privatized and the Lopezes took over in 1997.

For every three cubic meters of water, two cubic meters are lost due to pilferage, Diokno-Pascual noted. Consumers subsidize this loss due to inefficiency that Maynilad has failed to lick over the past three years, she stressed.

Maynilad has sought a rate increase after it projected an accumulated loss of P4.1 billion by year-end.

Last year, it experienced a P2.4 billion loss due to the fall of the peso against the US dollar, making it difficult for Maynilad to meet payments on its dollar loans.

Maynilad inherited the bulk of its dollar loans from the Manila Waterworks and Sewerage System.

Diokno-Pascual said the unrealized revenue due to NRW increased from 372.46 million liters per day or P674.30 million in 1998 to 631.30 million liters per day, or P1,412 billion in 2000.

She pointed out that it was "most unfair" for Maynilad to pass on the burden of its inefficiency to the consumers.

"It's a simple case of dagdag-presyo, bawas-serbisyo," she said. "It is unjust for Maynilad to recover foreign exchange losses and make consumers foot the bill." Diokno-Pascual said. "It could have hedged against a possible further depreciation (of the peso) if it had held on to the foreign currencies infused by foreign equity."

She said it had been a case of poor management judgment call by Maynilad when it continued to borrow after it incurred heavy losses.

If Maynilad were granted a rate increase, it would assure its creditors that consumers would foot the bill even if the water company was inefficient, Diokno-Pascual said.

It would also evade regulatory review and raise the risk that imprudent inefficient operations will nevertheless be "rewarded," she said.

Citing a World Bank study on lowering the NRW, Diokno-Pascual said a reduction of physical losses translates into less water to be produced, treated and pumped.

"This results in the postponement of expansion of capacity, which eases

the financial pressure to finance new works," according to the study. "Less water produced also translates immediately into cost savings in operations, mainly savings in energy and treatment costs (chemicals). All of these savings could be passed on to the consumer."

"A reduction of commercial losses results in more water being billed, and additional revenues for the utility. It has also been shown that water metering and adequate rates reduce wasteful consumption. Therefore, total consumption is likely to decrease and will yield lower production and corresponding cost savings."

With the proposed increase in water rates by Maynilad, each household would shoulder an additional expense of P85 to P147, Diokno-Pascual said.

"To an average household consuming 30 cubic meters, the additional P85 will mean three full meals or three kilos of rice less for the family," she said. "To the cigarette vendor on the street, it is already a whole day's income."

Bacoor mayor seeks suspension order reconsideration

BACOR Mayor Jessie B. Castillo has filed a motion for reconsideration of a Sept. 3 Sandiganbayan ruling suspending him for 90 days for allowing the continued operation of a dumpsite that had no environmental permit. (See Metro Sept. 6 story)

The order, he said, is not yet final and executory.

"Until after the Sandiganbayan has resolved the motion, the execution of the suspension order is stayed," he said on Monday, a day after he arrived from an official mission in the US.

Castillo's legal counsel filed the motion on Sept. 21, exactly 15 days from when the mayor's office received a copy of the Sandiganbayan resolution on Sept. 6.

The dumpsite in question, a 2-hectare property located in Villa Esperanza in barangay Molino III, was already rehabilitated way ahead of the 2003 deadline set by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. He said he inherited the garbage site from the last two mayors who preceded him.

Prior to his departure for the US, Castillo, in an interview, said his pend-

ing graft case concerning the alleged illegal operation of the garbage site in Villa Esperanza "is pure and simple political harassment."

The complainant, he said, was generously funded by his political rivals "who until now couldn't accept their defeat in the May 2001 polls. He was the same person who had already filed two dozens of cases against me and not one of these had prospered."

Castillo said Bacoor has been doing well in garbage management. "For that, we have already been twice awarded by

the DENR, first by Secretary Antonio Cerilles and now by Secretary Heheron Alvarez."

Supporters of the mayor said Castillo is a victim of selective justice, claiming that it is a known fact that Metro Manilans dump their wastes on landfills without an environmental compliance certificate (ECC) or any permit from the Environmental Management Bureau of the DENR.

"If they are suing our mayor (Castillo), they should prosecute all the Metro Manila mayors as well," they

'Drug queen' Yu Yuk Lai sentenced to life

BY JEROME ANING

A MANILA regional trial court judge yesterday sentenced to life imprisonment "drug queen" Yu Yuk Lai and her nephew for selling 3 kilos of shabu in 1998.

Judge Teresa Soriaso of RTC Branch 27 also fined Yu, 55, and her nephew, Kenneth Monceda alias William Sy, P5 million each.

But in her 41-page decision, Judge Soriaso did not explain why she only meted out life terms to Yu and Monceda when the Penal Code prescribes the death penalty for those caught with 200 grams of shabu or more.

Monceda's lawyer Leo Lee tried to have the promulgation postponed because Yu's lawyer Rodolfo Tablante could not attend. But the judge, backing state prosecutor Pablo Formaran III, appointed Lee to act as Yu's temporary lawyer and ordered the reading of the decision.

The accused, who could only speak in halting English, shook their heads and refused to speak to reporters when the clerk

of court explained the verdict and the sentence to them.

Monceda was dressed in a prison uniform but Yu was clad in a brown business attire.

Members of the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption, which had been monitoring the case, said they would file a motion to the higher court to review Soriaso's decision.

They said the suspects deserve the death penalty.

Yu was caught by agents of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force while playing baccarat at the Holiday Inn Hotel casino on July 17, 2001.

She was arrested for drug charges on Nov. 7, 1998 and was sent to prison. At the time of her arrest in July, she was reportedly ill and had permission to be confined at the Manila Doctors Hospital.

The Supreme Court also suspended Court of Appeals Justice Demetrio Demetria and Manila Judge Manuel Muro for intervening on Yu's behalf and giving

her VIP treatment.

Muro was the judge hearing Yu's case. The high tribunal learned that Demetria, together with Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association president Go Teng Kok, met prosecutor Formaran on July 18, 2001. The two tried to pressure Formaran to withdraw his motion for Muro to inhibit himself from Yu's case.

Demetria later claimed that narcotics agents had framed Yu.

In November 1998, the Anti-Narcotics Group of the national police arrested Yu and Monceda at the parking lot of the Hotel Sofitel-Grand Boulevard.

Insp. Ramon Arsenal, leader of the ANG team, said he learned of the suspects' activities from a female informant.

An ANG agent, PO3 Geronimo Pastrana, posed as a shabu buyer and used the informant's red Honda Civic in the drug transaction.

Arsenal said Yu, alias Sze Yuk Lai, a Taiwanese engaged in selling cameras and rice, producing caustic soda and casino

financing, asked for P2 million worth of casino chips in exchange for three kilos of shabu.

The informant testified that Monceda and Yu appeared at the parking lot about 5:30 p.m., carrying a box containing the shabu placed in three plastic packs.

PO3 Pastrana then took off his bulcap which was the pre-arranged signal that he had handed over the four casino chips—each worth P500,000—to the suspects and that he had received the drugs.

PO3 Pastrana and his companions then arrested Yu and Monceda.

The defense tried to discredit the prosecution's case by pointing out that PO3 Pastrana and another policeman witness, SPO3 Elpidio Anasta, did not know which of the two suspects was carrying the box.

But the court said the inconsistency was a "minor detail" which the court can dispense with since it did not affect as a whole the weight of the policemen's testimony that it was Yu and Monceda who sold the drugs.



YU during July 2000 detention at PAOCTF. JOAN BONDOC

Businessman extradited to US for rape

BY MICHAEL LIM UBAC

A BUSINESSMAN from Pangasinan has been extradited to the United States to stand trial for the rape of a 15-year-old girl in 1998.

A Manila Regional Trial Court ordered the extradition of Alex Rancapero, 48, last week, lawyer Ricardo Diaz, chief of the National Bureau of Investigation's Interpol Division, said yesterday.

Diaz said US Marshals Wayne Chun and Bernard Cummins yesterday escorted Rancapero, a fish trader, on board Philippine Airlines flight 104 bound for San Francisco, California.

Rancapero has been charged with statutory rape and sexual intercourse with a minor in the State of California.

The victim, a 15-year-old girl of Filipino descent, filed a complaint in October 1998 where she claimed that Rancapero molested her several times in his home in San Mateo County.

Rancapero was working in a hospital at the time, Diaz said.

Police served an arrest warrant to Rancapero, but he managed to jump bail and fled to the Philippines in 1999.

This prompted the US Department of Justice to file for Rancapero's extradition with the Philippine DOJ on April 27, 2000.

In May 2000, the NBI-Interpol sought a provisional warrant for the accused, which was subsequently granted by Manila Judge Cenecio Urtile.

Diaz said his men arrested Rancapero on Dec. 22, 2000 at his home in San Miguel, Bani, Pangasinan.

His arrest allowed the DOJ to initiate extradition proceedings against him with the Manila RTC.

"After nine months, (Rancapero) decided to waive his right and opted for voluntary extradition," Diaz said.

The Manila RTC, through the DOJ, informed US authorities that the accused was willing to go to the US to answer the charges.

"He told us it would be better for him to face the charges rather than wait for the outcome of the extradition proceedings which might take some time," Diaz said.

Three suicides in three places

THREE men died by their own hands yesterday, according to police.

Painter George P. Alipio, 21, a native of Jala-jala, Rizal, hanged himself around midnight yesterday inside the workers' quarters of the Lata Industries Inc. compound on Kaingin Road in Barangay Apolonio Samson, Quezon City, police said.

Crisanto Maray found Alipio hanging from the ceiling about 3 a.m., said investigator SPO1 Cresenciano Bajao of the Central Police District Criminal Investigation Unit.

Police also found a suicide note where Alipio poured out his frustrations.

Members of the CPD Scene of the Crime Operations team searched the victim's quarters but failed to find anything that would indicate foul play in Alipio's death, Bajao said.

Still, the victim's body was taken to the Philippine National Police Crime Laboratory for autopsy.

At the Mandaluyong city jail, inmate Joseph Parilla also hanged himself.

Jail guard PO1 Rodito Bulalacao said Parilla was still alive when he found the inmate about 3 a.m. Sunday.

Jail guards took Parilla, 28, of Barangka Drive, Mandaluyong, to the Mandaluyong City Medical Center, where he died yesterday.

Chief Insp. Rosendo Dial, jail warden, said police were investigating whether Parilla did commit suicide.

Parilla, who was charged with various crimes, including trespassing and alarm and scandal, was locked up on Aug. 28.

Dial said Parilla used to be detained in the jail's Dorm 3 but was transferred to the isolation room after he constantly picked fights with the other inmates.

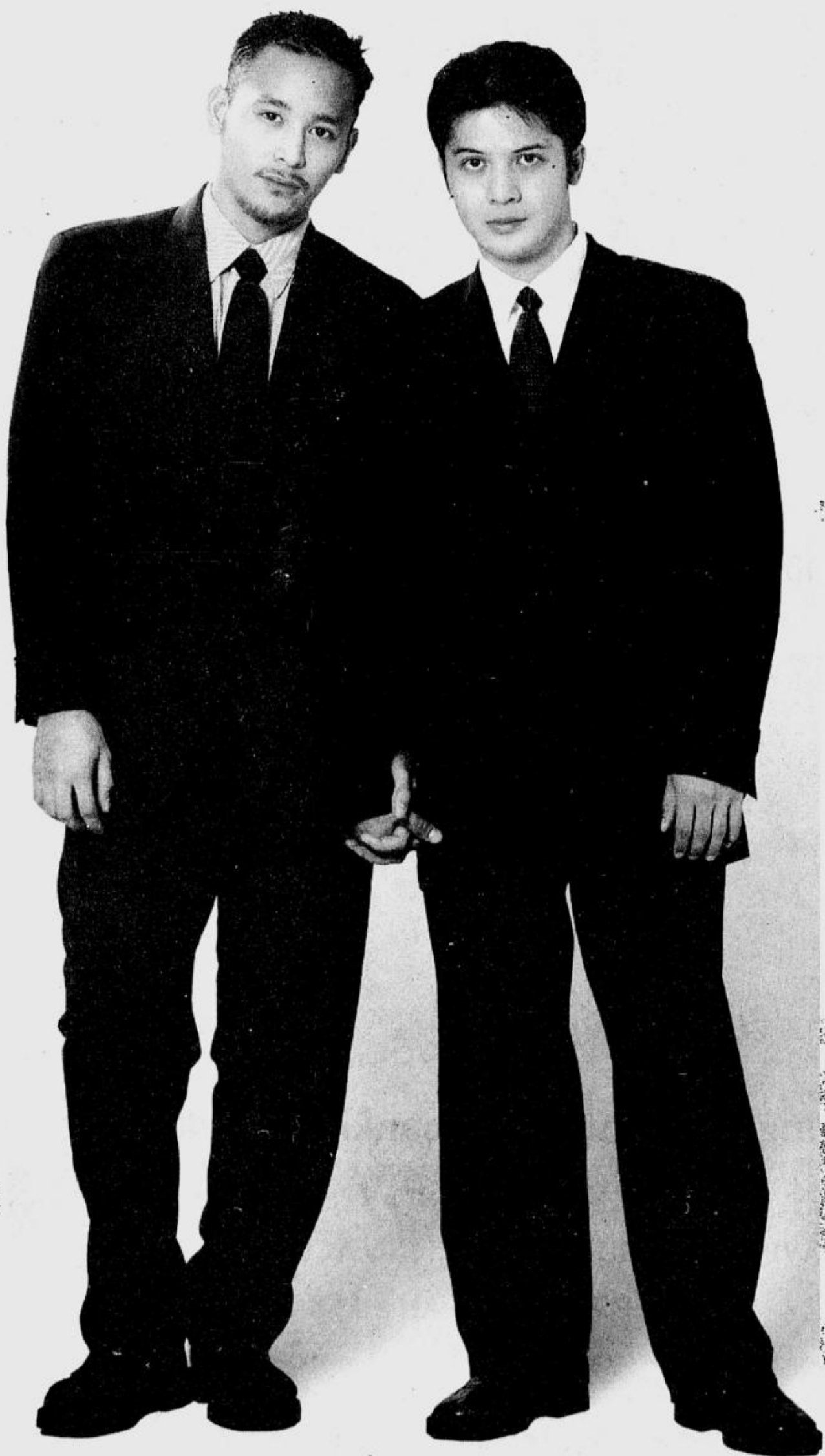
It was learned that Parilla suffered from emotional problems and was committed to a mental institution in 1995.

In Malabon City, overseas worker Enrique Pagad, 37, killed himself inside his house yesterday.

Neighbor Wendilito Urtujan found Pagad hanging from the ceiling of his house on Azucena Street, Barangay Longos, police said.

On the floor was a suicide note addressed to Pagad's mother.

PO1 Reynaldo Gabatin said Pagad had just returned home from a stint in the Middle East. Philip C. Tubeza, Agnes E. Donato, Christian V. Esguerra



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Villar rival nabbed for illegal trading

BY MICHAEL LIM UBAC

A RIVAL of Las Piñas Rep. Cynthia Villar in the May 14 congressional election was arrested by the National Bureau of Investigation for engaging in foreign exchange trading without a license from the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

NBI agents on Monday night arrested businessman Reynaldo Patacsil and four

companions in his office in the Makati Central Business District.

Patacsil ran for a congressional seat but lost to Sen. Manuel Villar's wife Cynthia.

The NBI Anti-Fraud Division said Patacsil was arrested based on a search warrant issued by Makati Judge Reynaldo Quilala.

The NBI also seized several computer units which were allegedly used in

Patacsil's foreign exchange trading.

Patacsil and his companions, whose identities have not been revealed by the NBI, were charged yesterday at the Department of Justice with syndicated estafa (swindling) and violation of the Securities Code.

NBI agents said Patacsil's firm, Belkins Management Consultancy, had no license to engage in any foreign exchange

business. "A check with the SEC showed that the firm was not licensed to engage in foreign exchange trading," an NBI agent said.

The agents alleged that Patacsil dropped names in an attempt to intimidate them.

They said it was the third time that Patacsil's operations were busted. The first was in November 2000 and the second was just last August.

Bong Pineda's daughter witness to husband's death, cops say

POLICE said they would question a daughter of deposed President Estrada's crony Bong Pineda in connection with the alleged suicide of her husband last Friday.

San Juan police chief Supt. Rodrigo de Gracia on Monday said Esmeralda Pineda-Victorino was the key witness in the death of her husband, businessman Omar Victorino, 31, in the carport of his residence in North Greenhills Subdivision in San Juan.

Esmeralda was still in shock over her

husband's death and could not yet give a statement, police said.

Victorino was found dead with a gunshot wound in the right side of the chest about 1 a.m. Friday.

Investigation by SPO1 Honorio Cartalla showed that Victorino was drinking with his cousins in Caloocan City when he had an argument with his wife on the phone about 11 a.m.

His driver Rommel Rivera told police

that during the phone conversation, Victorino told his wife he would go to the family's restaurant on Wilson Street in Greenhills and make a scene.

Esmeralda decided to leave the restaurant and go home, apparently to avoid being embarrassed in front of customers, police said.

The couple's eight household servants also told police the Victorinos had a violent fight on the night Victorino died.

They said the Victorinos were on the second floor of their house when a gunshot was heard. Victorino then went downstairs and into the carport, police said.

Another gunshot was fired, and when the servants checked, they saw Victorino sprawled in the garage.

They brought Victorino to the Cardinal Santos Memorial Medical Center, also in Greenhills, where he died while undergoing treatment.

Agnes Donato

CHRISTMAS 'FARM'

As soon as September sets in, hand-made Christmas trees start "growing" along Roxas Boulevard in Manila and Pasay City, ushering in what is said to be the world's longest Christmas season as well as much-needed cheer in these times of terror. *RANDY HORMILLOSA*

Surname debate sparks slaying

A DRIVER on Sunday night allegedly killed a neighbor in Malabon City during an argument over who got the better surname.

Randy Cruz, 24, stabbed Rogelio Lopez, 27, his neighbor at Merville Subdivision in Barangay Dampalit, around 10:30 p.m. Sunday, said PO1 Reynaldo Gabatin.

The victim suffered five stab wounds in the chest and three in the back, police said. He died while undergoing treatment at the Pagamutang Bayan ng Malabon.

Police said the stabbing could have been triggered by an argument on who had the better sounding surname.

A witness told police that he saw the two men walking on a street in Merville and heard them arguing about their surnames.

At the height of the argument, Cruz took a fan knife and repeatedly stabbed Lopez, investigation showed.

A village watchman arrested Cruz, who is now detained at the Malabon police headquarters. He is facing homicide charges before the city prosecutor's office. *Christian V. Esguerra*

Man killed in wake

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

JULIUS A. Victa, 26, met his death while attending the wake of a nephew in Quezon City on Sunday.

Victa, of Barangay San Agustin, Novaliches, Quezon City, was stabbed by his neighbor Rocky Rebujo while they were arguing over a card game called *tong-its*, said investigator PO3 Jun Mortel of the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit.

Mortel said Victa was attending his nephew's wake at the house of Myrna Paredes-Gusi in Bagong Tuklas when the two men fought around 2:15 p.m.

"They had an old grudge on each other and the fight must have reopened old wounds," the investigator said. "They were also drunk and had little sleep."

Mortel said Victa was standing outside Gusi's home and asked out loudly if the be-reaved family had a share of the winnings in the card game.

Victa then turned to Rebujo and slapped him lightly in the cheek, PO3 Mortel said.

Rebujo pulled out a knife while Victa went inside the house.

"I tried to plead with him not to do it but he would not listen," Gusi told police. "I even hugged Rocky to stop him but he still went after Julius."

When Rebujo caught up with Victa, he stabbed him in the right side of the body, Mortel said. Rebujo then escaped.

Victa died at the San Lorenzo Hospital around 3 p.m. His body was later brought to the Philippine National Police Crime Laboratory for an autopsy.

1-day health show

A ONE-DAY health show on anti-aging and cardiovascular wellness will be held on Sept. 30 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Badjao Function Room of the Century Park Hotel.

US-based health professionals Dr. Eleazar M. Kadile and clinical nutritionist Genia I. Kadile, both of the Center for Integrative Medicine in Wisconsin, will provide free medical consultations.

Organized by the Philippine Federation of Natural Health and Environment Friendly Organizations, the health show will provide free blood pressure check-up, blood sugar and cholesterol tests and eye check-up.

Interested parties may coordinate with Grace or Bong at 636-7933 and 632-9989.

Ateneo conference

THE ATENEO de Zamboanga University Metro Manila Alumni Association will hold its annual general membership conference on Sept. 29 at the penthouse of the Archipelago Bldg. on North Avenue in Quezon City.

The association will also elect new officers, according to incumbent association president Paulino Pe.

For more information, contact Gaea Gaitos at 926-9056 or (0917)532-5071.

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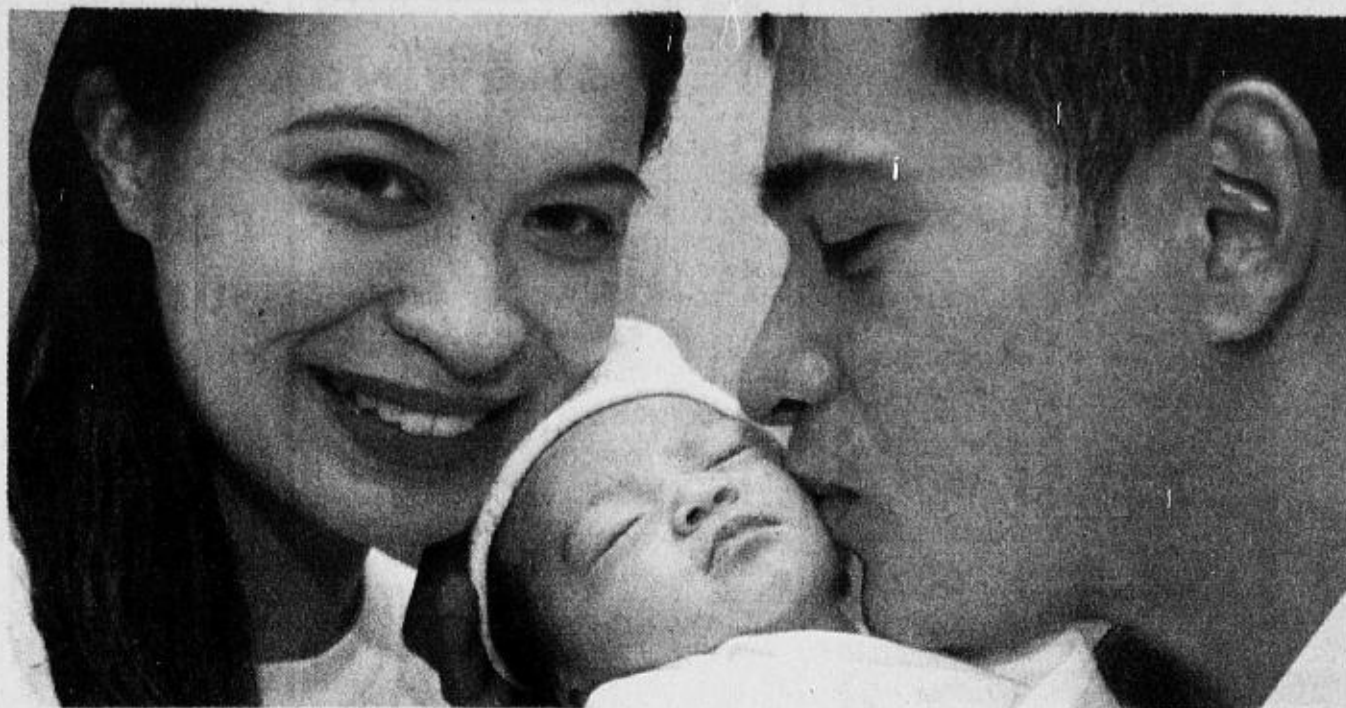
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**AND BABY MAKES 3**

Actor Cesar Montano holds his and actress-wife Sunshine Cruz's two-day-old baby, Angelina Isabelle, for her first pictorial. The 7.3-pound baby—Sunshine's first and Cesar's third (he has two others with his late first wife)—was born Monday morning at St. Luke's Hospital.

VAL HANDUMON

Makati hosts international film festival in December

BY LEAH SALTERIO

MAKATI will host this year's Cinemanila International Film Festival, to be held on Dec. 7 to 16 in the city's leading entertainment centers.

To be screened during the 10-day festival are films from Belgium, Singapore, Korea, Russia, United States, Iran, Taiwan, Netherlands, Japan, Canada, Argentina, Spain, Norway, France, Czech Republic, Mexico, Hong Kong and Thailand.

Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay last week welcomed members of the diplomatic community and personalities from the business and film sectors during the official launch of the festival in the VIP Room of the new Makati City Hall.

"The City of Makati is delighted to be the host of an international film festival organized to showcase the best in Philippine cinema and honor the finest in Asian, European and American cinema," Binay said.

The Cinemanila 2001 grand prize, the Lino



BINAY

Brocka Award, pays tribute to one of the best directors of local cinema.

Rep. Agapito "Butz" Aquino of Makati's 2nd District said, "An international event like Cinemanila can greatly improve the image of the City of Makati as center of tourism and trade not only in the country but in the region as well."

Cinemanila is a brainchild of filmmaker Amable "Tikoy" Aguiluz VI. It was first held in 1999 when more than 75 films were shown during its seven-day run at SM Megamall cinema, Shangri-La cinemas and the UP Film Center.

He and the likes of Ishmael Bernal, Celso Ad Castillo, Mike de Leon and Mario O'Hara were doing some of the best works when they were in their 30s.

This year's festival is jointly organized by the Independent Cinema Association of the Philippines, Movpix International Inc. and the City of Makati. About 75 acclaimed films will be screened at the Glorietta 4 and Greenbelt cinemas.

To be screened on opening night is the French film "Amelie from Montmartre," directed by Jean-Pierre Jeunet. Jeunet also directed the third sequel to the successful "Alien" series, "Alien: Resurrection," shown in 1997.

Aguiluz said 15 international guests would be invited to the event. Seven world-renowned film personalities will comprise the festival jury, including Belgian director Gerald Corbiau, French critic Max Tessier and Singapore film festival organizer Phillip Cheah.

Cinemanila 2001 will also have a series of free workshops, lectures and symposia on film production, new trends in cinema, documentaries and criticism.

Cinemanila 2001 will also give a grand jury prize, best actor and best actress in a feature film, best short, best documentary, the critics' prize and the Ishmael Bernal award for the best Filipino short film.

The foreign dignitaries who attended the launch were ambassadors Roland van Remoortele of Belgium and Stanislav Slavicky of the Czech Republic, French cultural attaché Lok Daniel and cultural counselor Franck Hebert, Kim Young-Chae of Korea, Lucila Prieto Olguin of Mexico, Swiss cultural attaché Peter Casaulta, Taipei Economic and Cultural Office information director Robert Shih and Alliance Francaise director Philippe Normand.

Producer's maid nabbed for theft

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

POLICE on Monday arrested the 20-year-old maid of FLT Films executive producer Rose Flaminiano after the latter lost nearly P200,000 in cash and jewelry in her office in Quezon City.

Flaminiano, a resident of Greenhills, San Juan, accused Margie B. Torres, a native of Pangasinan, of taking her cash and valuables on Monday, said investigator SPO4 Herman Santiago Peralta of the Kamuning police station.

Policemen said they recovered from the suspect Flaminiano's \$1,500 Raymond Weil watch; \$200 and P980 in cash.

But investigators failed to find the film producer's P100,000 worth gold necklace, Peralta said.

The maid reportedly confessed she took the watch and the money but she denied stealing the necklace.

Flaminiano said she realized that Torres was stealing from her when she discovered around 11 a.m. Monday that her gold necklace was missing in her office on Panay Avenue in Quezon City.

She said the maid, whom she hired from an employment agency only three weeks ago, was the only person left in the office.

Flaminiano reported her loss to the Kamuning police station and SPO1 Purismo Angeles and PO3 Arnel Ocrima went to her office to investigate. When they told Torres to open her black travel bag, they found the Raymond Weil watch and the money in it, Peralta said.

"I did not even know that she also took them until they opened her bag," Flaminiano said.

The maid is detained at the Kamuning police station.

Housing loans for SC workers

EMPLOYEES and officials of the Supreme Court can now avail themselves of decent and quality houses through a special housing loan facility from the Pag-IBIG Fund, according to HUDCC chair Mike Defensor, concurrent chair of the Pag-IBIG board of trustees.

The memorandum of agreement on the special loan facility was signed on Monday by the Supreme Court and the Pag-IBIG Fund. The agreement will benefit about 300 court workers.

Under the agreement, Pag-IBIG will process housing loan applications of qualified Supreme Court officials and employees. The special housing loan facility has fixed yearly interest rates of 9 percent for houses worth P180,000 and 12 percent for houses costing more than P170,000 up to P250,000.

To hasten the processing of applications, the Supreme Court will create a housing secretariat that will receive, evaluate, pre-process and recommend approval of all the housing loan applications of its officials and employees.

The court will also enter into a collection servicing agreement with Pag-IBIG which provides that loan amortization shall be done through salary deduction.

The signing of the agreement forms part of the government shelter sector's campaign to help low-salaried government and private sector employees own houses through easy and reasonable payment schemes.

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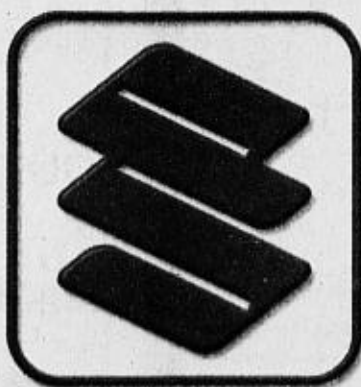
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10 BANYO QUEEN
11 LA VIDA ROSA
12 LA VIDA ROSA

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna) tel. (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198
1 LA VIDA ROSA
2 LA VIDA ROSA
3 FAST & FURIOUS
4 PRINCESS DIARIES
5 LA VIDA ROSA
6 PRINCESS DIARIES
7 LA VIDA ROSA
8 PRINCESS DIARIES
9 LA VIDA ROSA
10 PRINCESS DIARIES
11 LA VIDA ROSA
12 PRINCESS DIARIES

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel. (049) 545.7383
1 PRINCESS DIARIES
2 LA VIDA ROSA
3 FAST & FURIOUS
4 LA VIDA ROSA

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Bifan) Tel. (049) 411-1146
1 LA VIDA ROSA
2 PRINCESS DIARIES
3 PRINCESS DIARIES
4 FAST & FURIOUS
5 LA VIDA ROSA

Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel. (075) 568.6771
1 ENEMY OF THE GATES
2 LA VIDA ROSA
3 SOON TO OPEN
4 SOON TO OPEN

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel. 850.1276
1 HEART BREAKERS
2 PUKYUTAN
3 LA VIDA ROSA
4 LA VIDA ROSA

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel. (049) 545.7202
1 PRINCESS DIARIES
2 LA VIDA ROSA
3 FAST & FURIOUS
4 CROCODILE
5 SCREAM 2

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Bifan) tel. (049) 511.8883
1 LA VIDA ROSA
2 FAST & FURIOUS
3 CROCODILE
4 CROCODILE

Olivarez Los Baños
tel. (049) 536.5101
1 LA VIDA ROSA
2 CROCODILE
3 FAST & FURIOUS
4 FAST & FURIOUS

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel. (046) 413.0311
1 BANYO QUEEN
2 PUKYUTAN

Morales Cinema
(Bifan) tel. (049) 511.9736
1 CROCODILE

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel. (049) 531.4908
1 LA VIDA ROSA
2 LA VIDA ROSA
3 RESERVE

Fourstep
(Carite) tel. (046) 418.2345
1 LA VIDA ROSA

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel. (046) 438.1657
1 SCREAM 2
2 LA VIDA ROSA
3 BUKAS BABAH NG DUGO

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel. (043) 981.0790
1 ORIGINAL SIN
2 RUSH HOUR 2
3 LA VIDA ROSA
4 BANYO QUEEN

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel. (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 PRINCESS DIARIES
2 LA VIDA ROSA
3 CROCODILE
4 ORIGINAL SIN

Berma
tel. 879-2029 or 30
1 LA VIDA ROSA
2 PUKYUTAN

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel. 820.7269
1 HEART BREAKERS
2 RESERVE
3 RESERVE

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GALLERIA 832-8115 to 832-7641 loc. 779	ERMITA 838-7809 to 838-7812
1 FAST & FURIOUS	1 FAST & FURIOUS
2 HEART BREAKERS	2 HEART BREAKERS
3 PRINCESS DIARIES	3 A KNIGHT'S TALE
4 LA VIDA ROSA	4 RUSH HOUR 2
5 ENEMY AT THE GATES	5 LA VIDA ROSA
6 ORIGINAL SIN	6 ORIGINAL SIN
7 A KNIGHT'S TALE	7 PRINCESS DIARIES
8 PRINCESS DIARIES	8 PRINCESS DIARIES
9 PRINCESS DIARIES	9 PRINCESS DIARIES
10 PRINCESS DIARIES	10 PRINCESS DIARIES

NOVALICHES
935-3226 to 31

1 LA VIDA ROSA	2 RESERVE	3 RESERVE	4 PRINCESS DIARIES	5 FAST & FURIOUS	6 LA VIDA ROSA	7 ORIGINAL SIN	8 FAST & FURIOUS
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IMUS
(046) 471-8168

1 FAST & FURIOUS	2 ORIGINAL SIN	3 HEART BREAKERS	4 PRINCESS DIARIES	5 LA VIDA ROSA	6 LA VIDA ROSA
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SOON TO OPEN

BACOLOD (034) 441-0463	METRO EAST	SAN FERNANDO PAMPANGA	ILOILO
1 RUSH HOUR 2	1 A KNIGHT'S TALE	2 BANYO QUEEN	3 A.I.
4 ENEMY AT THE GATES	5 SCARY MOVIE 2	6 SCARY MOVIE 2	7 SCARY MOVIE 2

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	BANYO QUEEN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	BUKAS BABAH NG DUGO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DOLBY)	PRINCESS DIARIES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (DOLBY)	ORIGINAL SIN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DOLBY)	ENEMY AT THE GATES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	SCARY MOVIE 2
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	A KNIGHT'S TALE
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	PUKYUTAN
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	ORIGINAL SIN
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

MANILA

EASTERN	CLOSED
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	PANINDA/TEASER
ODEON	ORIGINAL SIN
ODEON-2	BORLESK QUEEN
ROBEN	PUKYUTAN
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	DUNGEON... / DRIVER

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	PUKYUTAN
REMAR	PUKYUTAN
REMAR-2	BURLESK QUEEN

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	LA VIDA ROSA
B	SISID (open Oct. 1, 2001 sneak preview)
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 to 70
CINEMA-1	PRINCESS DIARIES
CINEMA-2	FAST & FURIOUS

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(881-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
CINEMA-2	MANO MANO 2
CINEMA-3	PUKYUTAN
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	RUSH HOUR 2
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	PRINCESS DIARIES
CINEMA-6	A.I.
CINEMA-7	BURLESK QUEEN
CINEMA-8	BUKAS BABAH NG DUGO
CINEMA-9 (DOLBY)	PRINCESS DIARIES
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	ENEMY AT THE GATES
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	A KNIGHT'S TALE
CINEMA-12	SCARY MOVIE 2
CINEMA-14	ORIGINAL SIN
CINEMA-15	BANYO QUEEN

LORES

CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	ENEMY AT THE GATES
CINEMA-2	HEART BREAKERS
CINEMA-3	PRINCESS DIARIES
CINEMA-4	LA VIDA ROSA
CINEMA-5	ORIGINAL SIN
CINEMA-6	THE FAST & THE FURIOUS

UNIWIDE METROMALL

(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	RESERVE
CINEMA-2	RESERVE
CINEMA-4	RESERVE

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	APOY SA MAGDAMAG
CINEMA-2	ALFREDO LIM
CINEMA-4	RATRATAN

Yes-FM
tops car radio survey

YES! FM 101.1, the official number one radio station in Metro Manila, topped the most recent car radio survey in Metro Manila conducted and supervised by the Radio Research Council (RRC).

The RRC survey results showed that Yes! FM 101.1, a station of giant network Manila Broadcasting Company (MBC), occupied the number one spot among all FM stations in the metropolis from Monday to Saturday.

The station garnered the highest share of the market with an audience share of 7.9 percent and a rating of 5.1 percent of the total 7,176 private cars surveyed on June 25-30.

Likewise, FX taxi drivers also gave the station's Monday to Saturday programming two thumbs up with a 16.3 percent audience share and a rating of 12.6 percent of the total 1,566 FX taxi officially surveyed.

Yes! FM's recent achievement adds to its list of recognition from the FM radio industry.

In the RRC survey conducted in November 2000, the station ranked first among all FM and AM radio stations in the country when it secured an audience share of 19.7 percent and a 4.1 percent rating for the 21,896 homes included in the poll.

With the slogan "Playing the Greatest Songs of Yesterday and Today," YES! FM 101.1 churns out the hits of the yesteryears, the hottest songs of today and future chart-toppers.

The right blend of music based on its HOT/AC (Hot Adult Contemporary) programming enables the station to reach out to listeners across different generations. Its accessible programming format, with a varied mix of love songs, pop, disco, Original Pilipino Music (OPM), folk, country and oldies, can easily be enjoyed by listeners from all ages and social backgrounds.

Martin...
(From page A31)

the songs.

A production designer was charging them P300,000. But when the producers went to Floy Quintos, he asked for less than a quarter of that amount.

It is disappointing that some people in the industry do not share their anti-piracy cause.

While other artists and production people sacrificed their usual fees for tomorrow night's show, there were those who saw it as an opportunity to earn big money.

The show, produced by Manny Viray, will be mounted with a budget close to P2 million. Westin Philippine Plaza has provided its ballroom for free, as part of its 25th anniversary celebration and as its contribution to the anti-piracy campaign.

The concert is expected to recover production costs through its telecast on RPN 9. Solar Films producer Wilson Tieng, who holds the biggest blockbuster slot in the network, has given two hours of airtime to "Thank You for the Music."

Martin, Pops not hiding their friendship

ERSTWHILE husband and wife Martin Nievera and Pops Fernandez don't hide the fact that they are now good friends.

Last Sunday, after Martin substituted for one of the hosts of ABS-CBN's noon-time show, "Asap," he and Pops had a late lunch at the coffee shop of Westin Philippine Plaza.

"Asap" was telecast that day from the nearby Folk Arts Theater for the television launch of Globe's Touch Mobile.

Martin and Pops looked very comfortable with each other and they obviously did not try to hide it. They even chose a table right behind ours. "So you can eavesdrop," Martin said.

But before they ordered food, they argued about frappuccino. "You can write that we fought about having frappuccino," Martin said.

A source close to Martin confirmed that Pops also often goes to the Ayala Alabang house of her former husband, but only to visit their sons Robin and Ram, who are now staying with Martin.

Our source pointed out, however, that Pops has never slept in Martin's new house, which he also shares with his mom, Conchita Razon.

'Hug a New Yorker'

AFTER he and Pops had eaten, Martin told us of his experience the night before, during his concert at Onstage in Greenbelt, when he made a "Hug a New Yorker" campaign.

"A foreigner, a huge guy, was in the audience, and when I asked him where he came from, he said he's from New York," Martin said. "I told him to come up onstage and then I gave him a big, tight hug. I could imagine what New Yorkers had to go through after that tragedy. After he hugged me, I saw him crying. He must have felt good to know that others care."

Catch "Martin Nievera Live! Onstage" which goes on its last three performances, Sept. 27, 28 and 29, at 9 p.m. The show is a production of Maxi-Media International.

This is your last chance to see Martin in a concert before he leaves for a series of performances in the United States next

month.

Concert vs piracy

ARTISTS led by singer and Makati Councilor Rico J. Puno have banded together to stage the benefit concert called "Thank You for the Music" tomorrow night, Sept. 27, at the Westin Philippine Plaza Ballroom.

Proceeds of the show will finance an information and awareness campaign to support the industry's fight

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS



Leah Salterio

against piracy.

Artists who will perform in the concert will get an honorarium or a flat rate of P10,000, according to a source in the production. Even director Al Quinn slashed his usual talent fee.

When the artists were consulted about the musical director they wanted to work with, most of them had the same choice. But when the people working behind the production approached the

musical director, he reportedly asked for a whopping P260,000.

Since they couldn't afford the fee, they decided to go to another musical director, Gerry Matias, who was more considerate. When Matias was told that it would be a benefit show and that the performers would receive only an honorarium, he charged P50,000, including the arrangements for all

MARTIN/A30

MTRCB RATING
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R
RESTRICTED

Strictly for ADULTS.
No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.

"The car, truck & motorcycle stunts in the movie were performed by professional stunt drivers using proper safety gear in the presence of emergency ambulance & medical equipment. They should not be emulated nor done in the streets. Be SMART, DRIVE SAFE and STAY LEGAL."

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LIMP BIZKIT R.KELLY
DMX METHOD MAN REDMAN

PAUL WALKER VIN DIESEL
MICHELLE RODRIGUEZ
JORDANA BREWSTER

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angelina JOLIE

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MTRCB Rating: Restricted 18 (R)

and get a chance to win RayBan sunglasses, Timex watches, Timezone Powercards & Gift Certificates from Ayala Center establishments & more!

PLUS! Get a chance to join Timezone's exciting FERRARI F3 55 CHALLENGE!

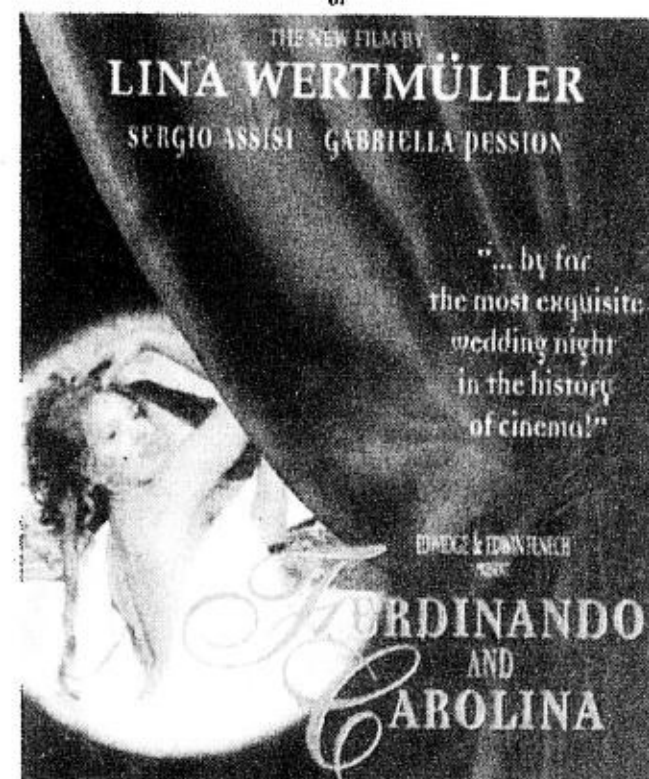
THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS movie opens at Ayala Cinemas on Sept. 26!

See poster or call 752-7880 to 83 for details.
Per DTT: NCR Permit No. 1483, Series of 2001.



TMV FILMS

The Philippine Premiere



MTRCB Rating: Restricted (R)

(No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted)

FERDINANDO & CAROLINA

The life and times of Italy's King Ferdinand are played for laughs in this comic historical piece directed by controversial Italian director Lina Wertmüller. On his death bed in the 1820s, King Ferdinand I of Naples tries to escape the ghosts of his bloody kingship by remembering his younger days, when he was allowed to go hunting and have fun, and inventing love games. Then he was obliged to marry Maria Carolina of Austria, daughter of Empress Maria Theresa. In a political marriage: unexpectedly, they became happy lovers, until court power games divided them, and a different historical season arrived.

Language: Italian w/ English sub-titles

WARNING! The film is suitable for adults only due to strong sexual images, pervasive nudity, violence and language.

OPENS TODAY

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Tel. No: 8981-440-41



ENEMY AT THE GATES - R 18
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

HEART BREAKERS - P 13
11:30, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10

PRINCESS DIARIES - GP
12:00, 2:25, 4:50, 7:15, 9:40

LA VIDA ROSA - R 18
12:10, 2:35, 5:00, 7:25, 9:50

ORIGINAL SIN - R 18
12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50

FAST & FURIOUS - R 18
12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00

Matinee: P80, Mon.-Fri, 11:10 am to 4:45 pm Screenings. Free Seating.

After **NOTTING HILL**, Julia Roberts is back in a new heartwarming romantic comedy set in the glitz & glamor world of showbiz!
OPENS OCTOBER 3!

MTRCB PG-13

Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult



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MTRCB G

General Audience

ALL AGES ADMITTED

ANNE HATHAWAY JULIE ANDREWS

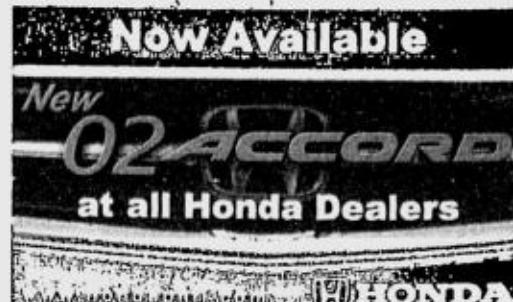


THE PRINCESS DIARIES

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BUSINESS

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ CORRIE S. NARISMA, Assistant Editor



Massive layoffs seen in export sector

By GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

THE EMPLOYERS Confederation of the Philippines yesterday warned of massive layoffs by export firms due to the projected fall in the country's export earnings this year.

A sharp decline in Philippine exports has been anticipated as the economic slowdown in the United States and Japan—the country's two biggest markets—are expected to deepen further.

Ecop president Donald Dee said companies in the electronics and garments sectors suffered significant cutbacks in their orders follow-

ing the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in New York and Washington.

Dee said companies in these sectors were likely to trim down their already lean workforce and operate on a shorter work-shift rotation in response to lower-than-expected orders during the coming months.

Ecop is currently gathering data to monitor the extent of these expected layoffs, which Dee said would be "massive" considering that the export sector accounts for a big chunk of the total employee population.

Dee said that after losing 43,000 jobs in the electronics and construc-

tion sectors over the last 18 months, "we expected these industries to stabilize and start recovering by the first quarter next year. But with the US war on terrorists, we expect the electronics industry to suffer more."

Dee said that the electronics industry more than garment makers would bear the brunt of the fall in the US economy. "Garments exports are only down 2 percent but electronic exports are off by roughly 30 percent," Dee said. More than 60 percent of the country's exports are made up of electronic products.

With the weak global outlook, Dee said local firms have no choice

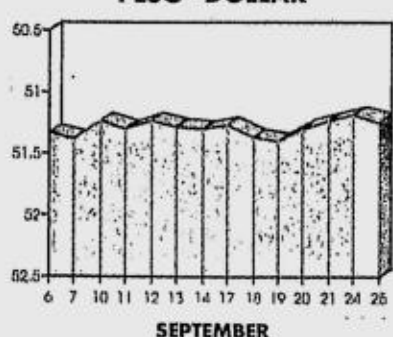
but to focus their resources on the domestic economy. "We support the President's move to spur the growth of agriculture because this is where we believe the government can do a lot with its limited resources to keep the economy resilient," Dee said.

The Department of Trade and Industry had earlier projected that exports would drop by at least 10 percent to less than \$34.2 billion this year from \$38 billion last year. Exports in the first seven months this year plunged 10.8 percent to \$18.5 billion from \$20.85 billion during the same period last year.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



Peso-Dollar Rate

P 51.24 = \$1

As of 5 p.m., Sept. 25, 2001

Y 117.20 = \$1

As of 5 p.m., Sept. 25, 2001

GOLD: \$287.00/288.00

per ounce Hong Kong, Sept. 25, 2001

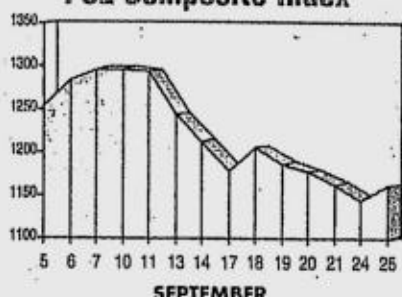
STOCK MARKET

Stocks end 4-day decline

SHARES snapped a four-day losing streak to end higher yesterday as the Dow's gains overnight inspired bargain hunters to build their short-term positions.

But traders warned of near-term volatility as speculators, who are likely to dump their holdings at the smallest sign of turmoil, currently dominate the market.

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B2)

STOCKS/ B3

IMF sees no global recession in 2001 or 2002

WASHINGTON—International Monetary Fund First Deputy Managing Director Anne Krueger said she does not see a global recession in either 2001 or 2002 despite increased economic uncertainty following the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States.

"The IMF... defines global recession as being less than 2.5-percent growth of world GDP," Krueger told reporters in her first interview since taking the No. 2 job at the lender earlier this month.

"On that basis, we are saying we do not believe there will have been recession in 2001 because we believe the growth rate will be above that, and we are calling for a growth rate above that in 2002."

The IMF is set to release its

World Economic Outlook, which takes the pulse of economies around the globe, on Wednesday. Last week, IMF Managing Director Horst Koehler said global growth for 2001 would be above 2.5 percent.

Krueger said the attacks, which flattened the twin towers of New York's World Trade Center and damaged the Pentagon near Washington, meant that economic forecasts were a "moving target" at the moment.

"Quite clearly there is more uncertainty than there was."

Certainly right now the short-term impact is not positive," she said. But while many on Wall Street believe the attacks will deal a hammer blow to US consumer confi-

dence and cause a global recession, Krueger remained optimistic despite what she acknowledged were "increased downside risks."

"We are still on track, and our basic outlook (remains) that economic growth will accelerate in the United States some time later this year (or) early next year and that we may be very close to, if not at, the bottom," she said.

"I don't think we are being overly optimistic," Krueger said when asked to respond to criticisms that the IMF was being a cheerleader for the global economy, noting "the great amount of uncertainty" was focused on the "very, very short run."

"Based on now, which is to say no more negative surprises and so

on, it's very hard to see much medium-term macroeconomic impact after the initial... (impact) of Sept. 11," she said.

Indeed, the former academic said that because the attacks have darkened short-term prospects, "That may also mean a sharper upturn later on."

Krueger said she saw no immediate need for further monetary or fiscal actions to bolster the US economy, saying policymakers should wait for a clearer picture of what impact the attacks have on the economic outlook.

"I would not regard further measures as being called for."

This does not mean that as of tomorrow things might not have

IMF/ B4

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INSIDER TRADING ISSUE

PSE clears F. Yap Securities

BY ELENA R. TORRIJOS

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange has formally cleared certain member-brokerage houses, including F. Yap Securities of PSE chair Felipe Yap, of any involvement in alleged insider trading and price manipulation involving RFM Corp. and Cosmos Bottling Corp. shares.

Earlier, Iloilo Rep. Augusto Syjuco Jr. accused Yap of using family-owned companies, including his brokerage house, to purchase shares of Cosmos based on insider information and in violation of the country's securities laws.

Syjuco also accused the RFM-Cosmos group of the Concepcion family of insider trad-

ing and manipulation of the prices of the companies' shares through several PSE member-brokers, including GK Goh Securities, Abacus Securities and Ang Ping Securities.

In a briefing with reporters yesterday, PSE president Ramon Garcia said, "We have sent (to the SEC) our reply containing the result of our inquiry. We would like to reiterate that there were no findings of violations with respect to the brokers enumerated in the list (of Syjuco)."

Garcia noted that, in the course of their normal business activities, many brokerage houses and their clients bought shares of RFM and Cosmos even before the July 26 announcement that RFM signed a memorandum of understanding to sell its 82.3-percent stake in

Cosmos to San Miguel Corp.

"Mr. Yap has never been a client as far as Cosmos is concerned," Garcia also pointed out.

The SEC ordered on Thursday the PSE to include Yap in the exchange's probe of the alleged wrongdoings of the RFM-Cosmos group. The government regulatory agency is set to investigate the PSE chair based on a complaint-affidavit filed by Syjuco.

Syjuco claimed that Yap's strategic position as PSE chair and his active and willful participation in the trading of Cosmos shares the day before RFM disclosed it had signed the MOU with SMC, "showed reliance on material insider information."

Smart installs cell site on Siargao Island

BY ABIGAIL L. HO

SMART Communications Inc. yesterday announced the full operation of its cell site on Siargao Island, Surigao del Norte.

"With the operation of the Smart cell site, Siargao Island is now equipped with cutting edge mobile communications technology that will boost tourism and the local economy in the Caraga region," Smart's network services division head Rolando Peña said.

He added that establishing this cell site was

part of Smart's efforts in joining forces with local governments to roll out telecommunications infrastructure in the country's unserved and underserved areas.

Siargao is the country's "surfing capital" and home of the world-renowned "Cloud Nine" surf break. Tourists from all over the world flock here every year for the Siargao International Surfing Cup.

The construction of a permanent cell site and tower in General Luna had already started, but Smart also deployed a mobile cell site or "cell-

on-wheels (COW)" to provide enough digital coverage and capacity in the meantime.

Smart's Siargao cell site operations coincided with the 6th Siargao International Surfing Cup. Smart's COW, with a capacity for approximately 2,000 subscribers, was deployed specially for this event.

Ease in communicating could be a come-on for tourists who would flock to the island for the surfing cup. Siargao, though located in a remote location somewhere north of mainland Surigao del Norte, has attracted local and foreign tourists in steadily increasing numbers every year.

Siargao is also considered as one of the top 10 surf sites in the world. The 6th Siargao International Surfing Cup, organized by the Department of Tourism, the local government and private companies, is expected to attract top international surfers worldwide.

The competition will also feature a kite flying festival, a food festival, a regional tourism assembly, a fashion show, Filipino games, a trade fair and an exhibit. Surfing clinics will also be conducted.

Philippine Stock Exchange

STOCKS	(As of Tuesday, Sept. 25, 2001)			CLOSE	VOLUME
	OPEN	HIGH	LOW		
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	52.5	53.5	52.5	52.5	374,800
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	25	25	24.5	25	28,300
Global Business Bank Inc.	65.5	75.5	65.5	74.5	35,900
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	205	208	204	206	39,800
Philippine National Bank	50	51	50	51	587,200
Phil. Savings Bank	29	29	29	29	1,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	20	20	20	20	400
Security Bank Corp.	18	19	17.75	18.5	5,800
Union Bank of the Phil.	18.5	18.5	18.5	18.5	300
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Manulife Financial Corp.	1200	1200	1200	1200	2,500
Sun Life Financial Serv.	930	955	930	950	3,760
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp	24.5	24.5	23.25	23.25	32,200
Diversified Fin. Network	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	15,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.35	0.37	0.35	0.36	980,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	630	630	615	620	8,440
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.028	38,000,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.48	0.48	0.47	0.47	160,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3	3	3	3	10,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	20,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	497.5	497.5	485	487.5	130,310
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.022	0.024	0.022	0.023	90,200,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	27.5	27.5	25	26	41,500
Manila Electric Co. B	37	37	34	34	1,788,300
Petron Corp.	1.38	1.4	1.36	1.38	4,486,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.84	0.84	0.84	0.84	10,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	0.92	0.92	0.88	0.88	1,400,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.58	1.64	1.56	1.56	390,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.4	0.45	0.4	0.4	400,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	140,000
Republic Cement Corp.	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	11,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	220,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	100,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.04	2.04	2.04	2.04	33,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	111,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	12	12.25	12	12	6,000
La Tonderia Distillers Inc.	25	25	24.5	25	12,500
Pancake House Inc.	1.62	1.62	1.62	1.62	53,000
RFM Corp.	2.04	2.04	1.98	2	1,078,000
San Miguel Corp. A	39	39	38	39	81,800
San Miguel Corp. B	50	50.5	49.5	50.5	511,300
Universal Robina Corp.	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	30,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5.7	5.9	5.6	5.9	5,280,000
Abilize Equity Ventures	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	560,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	10.5	10.75	10.5	10.75	400
Alo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.68	0.69	0.68	0.67	260,000
APC Group Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	200,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	20,000,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	50,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.17	0.22	0.17	0.22	370,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.14	1.18	1.1	1.12	2,781,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	500,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	100,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	350,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	300,000
Fininvest Dev. Corp.	0.74	0.74	0.7	0.7	60,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	25	25	24.25	24.25	236,000
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.23	0.24	0.23	0.24	20,000
Ionics Inc.	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	2,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.6	1.6	1.58	1.58	269,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	17,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	1,000,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	100,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.64	0.64	0.6	0.62	1,120,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.27	1,440,000
Musica Corp.	0.88	0.88	0.77	0.77	120,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.14	0.155	0.14	0.155	240,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.26	370,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc.	0.63	0.74	0.63	0.69	3,670,000
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	10,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0925	0.0975	0.0925	0.0975	5,600,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	200,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	10,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	2,060,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	2,060,000
Manila Jockey Club	19	20	19	20	40,500
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	170,000
Philippine Racing Club	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	25,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	23.5	23.5	23	23	50,300
Cosmos Bottling Corp.-Pref	10	10.25	10	10.25	20,200
Globe Telecom Hldg. (Pdr)	610	615	600	600	6,320
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	5,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series I	10	10	10	10	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series U	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	3,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.007	0.007	0.0065	0.007	96,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.45	4.45	4.35	4.35	23,601,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	100,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	50,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.25	2,380,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.225	0.225	1,800,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	17,293,000
Fininvest Land Inc.	1.5	1.52	1.46	1.5	2,400,000
Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	20,000
Fl-Estate Land Inc.	0.205	0.205	0.2	0.2	210,000
SM Development Corp.	0.74	0.75	0.74	0.75	40,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.1	6.2	6	6.2	3,260,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	200,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.03	0.031	0.029	0.029	9,000,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	10,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	520,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	12,800,000
Phillex Mining Corp. B	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	100,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.12	0.13	0.12	0.13	80,000
OIL					
Interport Res.	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	8,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0034	0.0036	0.0032	0.0036	30,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	1,000,000
Pacific	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	1,000,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.31	0.31	200,000

CURRENCIES

Sep. 25, 2001	Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US\$	Foreign currency in Peso
	United States	Dollar	1.091346	1.000000	51.1940
	Japan	Yen	0.009293	0.008506	0.4355
	United Kingdom	Pound	1.597075	1.463400	74.9173
	Hong Kong	Dollar	0.140096	0.128370	6.5718
	Switzerland	Franc	0.683158	0.625978	32.0463
	Canada	Dollar	0.695435	0.637227	32.6222
	Singapore	Dollar	0.616405	0.564812	28.9150
	Australia	Dollar	0.534973	0.490196	25.0951
	Bahrain	Dinar	2.894970	2.652661	135.8003
	Kuwait	Dinar	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.291026	0.266667	13.6518
	Brunei	Dollar	0.623804	0.571592	29.2621
	Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000116	0.000106	0.0054
	Thailand	Baht	0.024574	0.022517	1.1527
	UAE	Dirham	0.297207	0.272331	13.9417
	Korea	Won	0.000841	0.000771	0.0395
	Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.916300	46.9091
	Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.468497	23.9842
	France	Franc	0.152450	0.139689	7.1512
	Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.415799	21.2864
	Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.066590	3.4090
	Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.022714	1.1628
	Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000473	0.0242
	Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.154111	7.8896
	Portugal	Escudo	0.004987	0.00457	0.2340
	Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005507	0.2819
	Luxembourg	Franc	0.024789	0.022714	1.1628
	Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.163461	59.5622

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MVP's neck

RUMORS have been flying thick and fast for quite some time now about the alleged impending departure of Manuel V. Pangilinan from the presidency of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.

According to the rumors, the Indonesian principals of the First Pacific Group are unhappy over the sliding fortunes of the group's investments in PLDT and Fort Bonifacio that some executive realignment had to be therefore undertaken.

From Manila, MVP is supposedly being recalled to the Hong Kong headquarters from where he would oversee the regional operations of the First Pacific Group, just like he had in the pre-PLDT acquisition days.

This weekend, another item came out in another paper, now with a ring of certainty—even naming a putative CEO replacement, Edward Tortorici. For the nth time, we decided to check the matter out, this time putting the question direct to MVP himself.

Here is what MVP e-mailed back:

"It seems people want me out of here—either out of the country or at least out of PLDT! Gee, doesn't it feel good to be welcome?"

I have discussed this matter internally and the suggestion was just to ignore it. A separate press release being issued will simply raise the profile of what is clearly not true and a non-issue.

At base, a foreigner can't run a utility."

Plaza's end

WE do not know if it was a coincidence, but the Ayalas dismantled the enclosure by the Plaza building side of Greenbelt first thing Monday morning, on the same day that a *Cocktales* item about it appeared.

The building was finished by the Reyes family in 1983, when the political and financial situation in the country was imploding because of the Aquino assassination. The lot is in turn being leased by the Reyeses from Ayala Land.

Based on how the four-decade relationship with the Makati landlords has degenerated—the Reyeses have been in the Makati commercial center since 1966—it looks like the lease would no longer be renewed after it expires in four years.

After the lease expiry, the Plaza building, which houses the unrelated Plaza Fair among others, would most likely be demolished.

Political foes, business allies

THE AYALAS may be staunchly anti-Erap then as now, but it seems that the political divide is not insurmountable when it comes to business concerns.

Unknown to the public, an Ayala subsidiary, BPI Leasing, has all along retained Erap lawyers Fortun and Narvasa for its litigation requirements, even during the height of the impeachment battle.

The Fortun law office, incidentally, has also been extending legal advice to the mother of ex-Tarlac Gov. Tingting Cojuangco in the still unresolved feud between famous daughter and retired parents.

Heard through the grapevine

SAVE for dotting the i's and crossing the t's, a consortium of property owners led by the low-key Que family has all but acquired about 5.2 hectares of the Fort Bonifacio strip that adjoins the scenic Manila Golf Club.

The Metro Pacific Group had originally planned to replicate the success of Pacific Plaza Towers along that corridor, where the low-rise Fort Bonifacio Development Corp. offices are now, but pressing cash flow concerns have forced the real estate developer to just sell off the land instead.

In addition to the Ques, the consortium includes the Rufinos and socialite Doris Magsaysay Ho. (Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

LPG firm eyes export market

BY RONNEL W. DOMINGO

FERROTECH Steel Corp., the country's second-largest maker of liquefied petroleum gas cylinder, has earmarked P155 million for its expansion program aimed at tapping the growing overseas market.

Ferrotech vice president Ireneo Quizon said in a news briefing yesterday that the company was initially looking at the export markets in Pakistan and Guam.

Quizon said their current exports, which are still insignificant, are limited to the Saipan market.

Exports, however, are expected to grow by as much as 200 percent once the expansion program was completed.

"We are hitting P100 million in annual sales, but we are targeting between P30 million and P40 million income this year to make our returns reasonable," Quizon added.

About P50 million of the P155-million capital expenditure program was sourced from the industrial guarantee loan fund of the Development Bank of the Philippines.

"We are currently working on the DBP's approval for another P50 million," Quizon said.

The rest of the investment would come from internally generated funds.

Ferrotech's expansion program includes:
• a P120-million cylinder manufacturing facility in Valenzuela City;
• a recently commissioned repair facility in Bulacan;

• an assembly plant in Laguna slated to start construction next month; and

• another facility in Cebu to start construction on the first quarter of next year and expected to be operational by mid-2002.

Quizon said the Laguna facility, with a planned production capacity of 2,500 cylinders a day, was expected to boost the firm's export capability.

Ferrotech opened its Valenzuela plant last July, doubling the firm's production capacity from 1,200 cylinders to 2,400 cylinders per day.

Quizon said Ferrotech was the second-largest cylinder maker in the country in terms of production capacity and the largest in terms of output.

Stocks end 4-day decline

(From page B1)

Blue chips like Ayala Land and PLDT clawed back from oversold levels but utility firm Meralco slid on worries about its rate hike petition and a government's plan to sell its remaining stake in the firm.

The Philippine composite index jumped as high as 2.05 percent in intraday trades but erased some of its gains in late trade. It closed at 1,161.74 points, up 16.65 points or 1.45 percent.

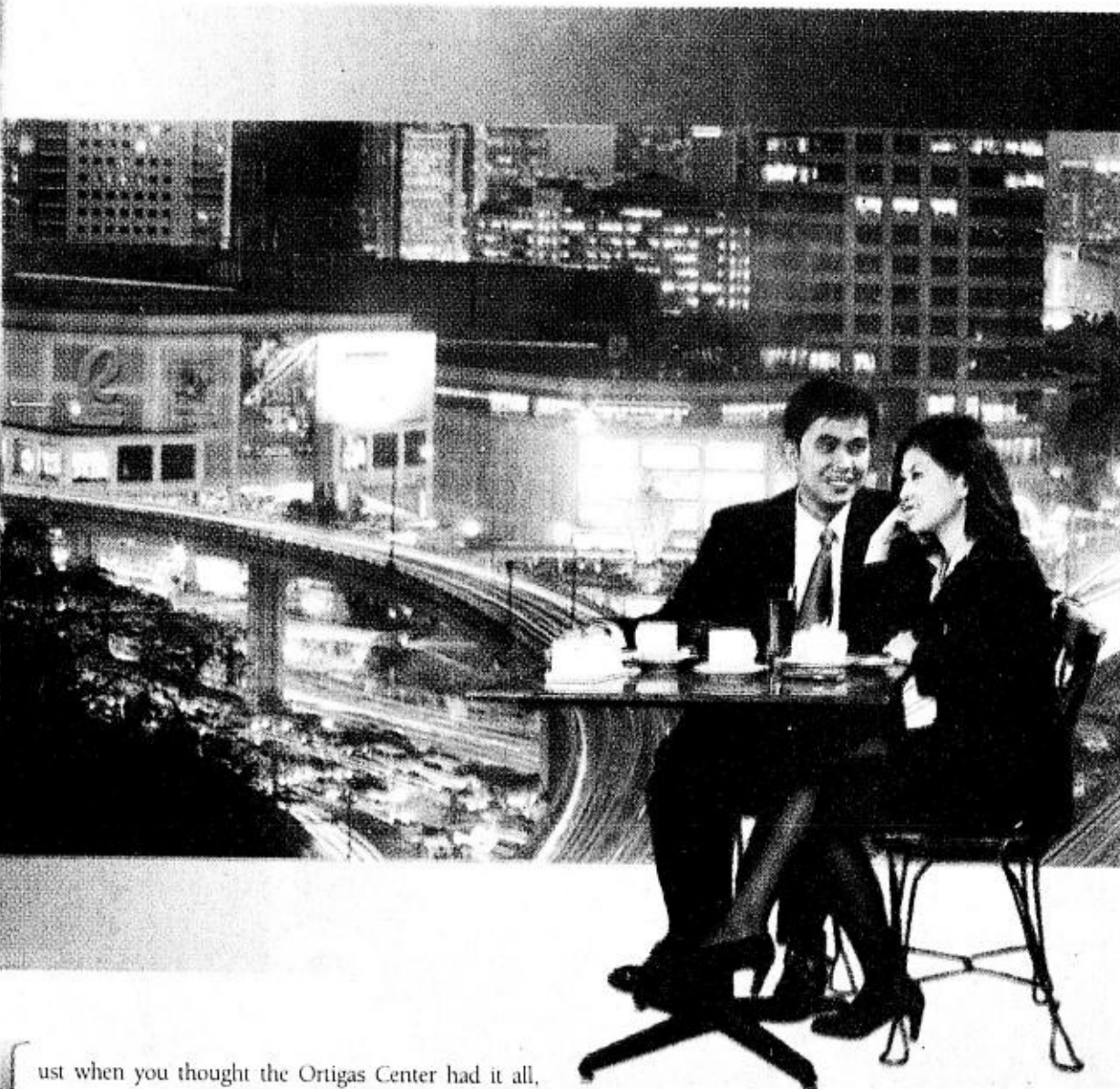
Before Tuesday, the index had lost about 11.73 percent since the Sept. 11 air attacks in the United States. Reuters

COUNTRY SHARES		
As of September 26, 2001		
	BUYING	SELLING
ALABANO COUNTRY CLUB A	725,000	800,000
BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB A/B	100,000/105,000	130,000
CAPITOL HILLS	215,000	215,000
CELEBRITY SPORTS	350,000/520,000	400,000/500,000
EAGLE RIDGE A/B/C	230,000	240,000/250,000
FINEST HILLS A/B/C	300,000	325,000/400,000
MAKATI SPORTS A/B	175,000/180,000	175,000/180,000
MITRO CLUB A/B	3,375,000	3,375,000
MANILA POLO CLUB	700,000/850,000	700,000/850,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS A/B	240,000/425,000	240,000/425,000
ORCHARD A/B/C	600,000	600,000
QUEZON CITY SPORTS	220,000	230,000
RIVERA GOLF A/B	500,000	230,000/400,000
ROCKWELL CLUB	1,200,000	1,200,000
STA. LENA GOLF	375,000	385,000/550,000
TAGAYTAY II-LANDS COUNTRY GOLF	750,000	800,000
TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	180,000/290,000	185,000/325,000
VALLE VERDE INCORP.	70 M	70 M
WACK WACK	70 M	70 M

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PDIC sees P2-B net from P10-B gross take

BY ELENA R. TORRIJOS

THE PHILIPPINE Deposit Insurance Corp. said yesterday it would record a net income of P2 billion on a gross income of P10 billion this year.

PDIC president Norberto Nazareno said in an interview that he expected the state-run insurer and regulator of banks to top last year's gross income of P8.7 billion, but its net income would be about the same year-on-year.

PDIC expects to generate this year about P4 billion in assessment income, largely from universal banks, Nazareno said.

He reported that PDIC currently had a deposit insurance fund of P30 billion as of July this year against insured deposits of P383 billion.

The ratio of insurance fund to total insured deposit of 7.9 percent was much higher than the US-mandated ratio of 1.25 percent, although this might not be sufficient, he said.

Nazareno said PDIC would ask Con-

gress to amend its charter to become an "effective police" of the banking system.

"We need to instill market discipline into our system," he said.

PDIC is supporting a bill filed in Congress that would increase insurance cover from P100,000 to P200,000 for each depositor, restore its power to conduct on-site examination of banks, increase fines and penalties for violation of its charter, and grant authority to examine and access deposit records.

Nazareno said the Philippines and its banking system were faced with many national and international uncertainties.

He said the banking sector had yet to recover from the 1997 Asian meltdown, and non-performing loans of commercial banks had crept up to 17.7 percent of total loans, or almost P300 billion.

Moreover, non-performing assets had risen to 14 percent of total assets, or 98.7 percent of the total capital of the banking sector.

Neda committee to decide on MRT-3 extension project

BY ABIGAIL L. HO

THE DEPARTMENT of Transportation and Communications said it was up to the National Economic and Development Authority-Investment Coordination Committee to decide whether or not Metro Rail Transit Corp. had the right to construct the 5.1-kilometer MRT-3 extension.

MRTC submitted to the DOTC last week its "revised proposal" for the project. It earlier said that it had a "vested right" in the project as it was stated in its build-lease-transfer contract for the MRT-3.

Transportation Undersecretary Wilfredo Trinidad said Monday that the project was supposed to go through

the bidding process, but the MRTC contested this.

"Under the BLT agreement, MRTC has a right to submit a proposal. They're holding on to this provision, saying they have the right to actually undertake the project," he said in an earlier interview.

But Trinidad said it was no longer in the DOTC's hands to decide the fate of the contractor as it was the Neda-ICC, which would have the final decision. If the committee finds MRTC's proposal satisfactory, then there would be no more bidding.

MRTC's proposal was a BLT deal, but Trinidad warned the contractor that the Neda-ICC would prefer a build-transfer agreement.

"I believe the BT arrangement is also fine with them (MRTC)," he said. MRTC senior vice president Paul

Daza had said that the technical and financial plan they submitted last week would use a build-transfer mechanism that would see completion of the link within about two years from the start of construction.

Trinidad added that he met with the MRTC officials Monday morning and several meetings were also scheduled today until Friday to iron out the details of the final proposal to be submitted to the Neda-ICC.

"We'll probably be able to submit something to the Neda-ICC by Oct. 15," he said.

He added that the MRTC declared it could finish the extension project by June 2004. This could count in its favor when the Neda-ICC finally decides on its proposal.

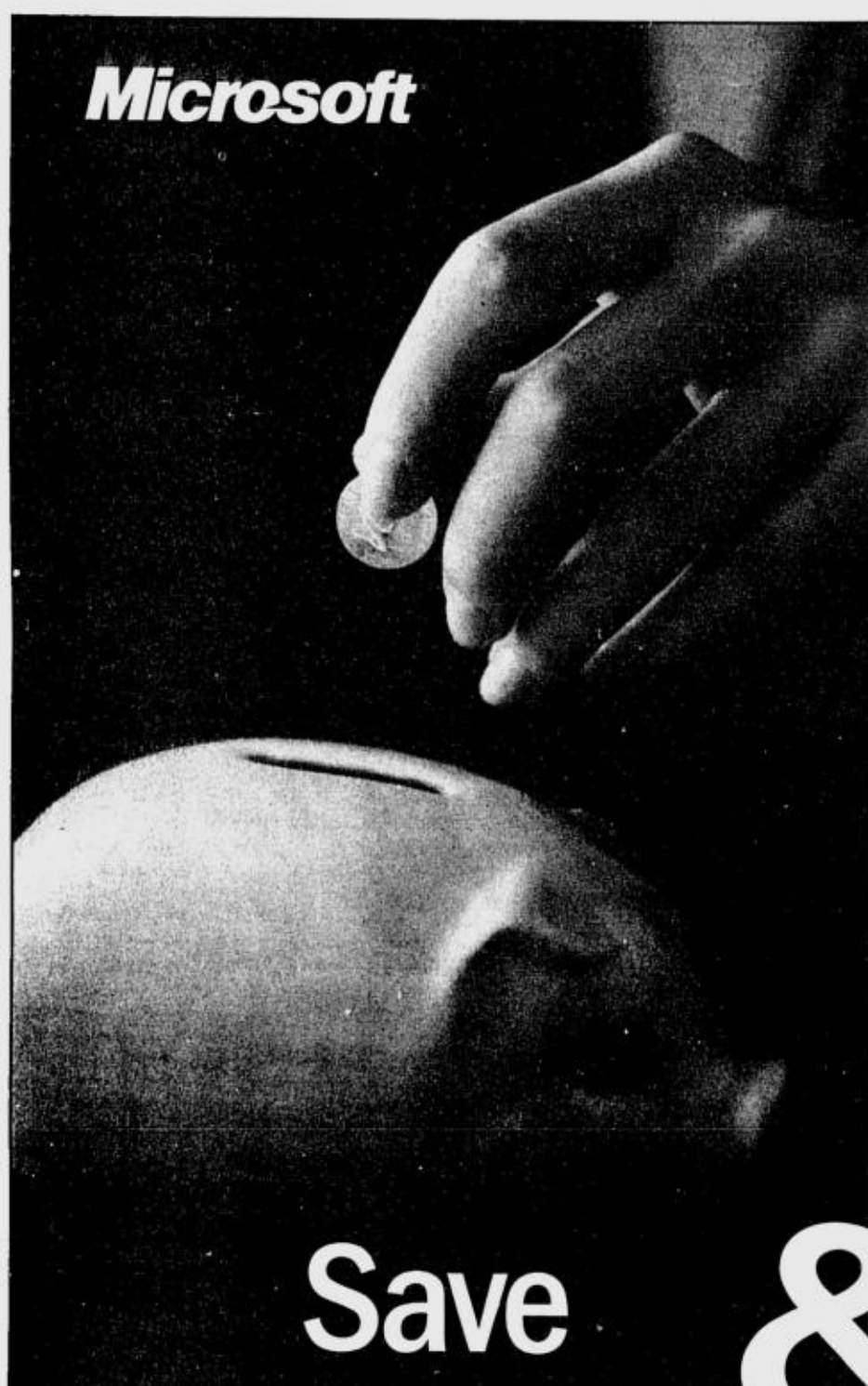
The MRT-3 extension project would add a 5.2-kilometer stretch to

the Edsa railway from North Avenue to Monumento. It would complete the interconnection between the LRT system that runs through Taft Avenue to Pasay City from Monumento in Caloocan City.

The project cost was originally pegged at \$270 million, but this could have already reached a cost of more than \$300 million by now, according to Trinidad.

The Neda-ICC earlier proposed that the extension be done only on the civil works aspect of the MRT-3, but this could not increase ridership as it would only add length to the existing 16.9-kilometer tracks.

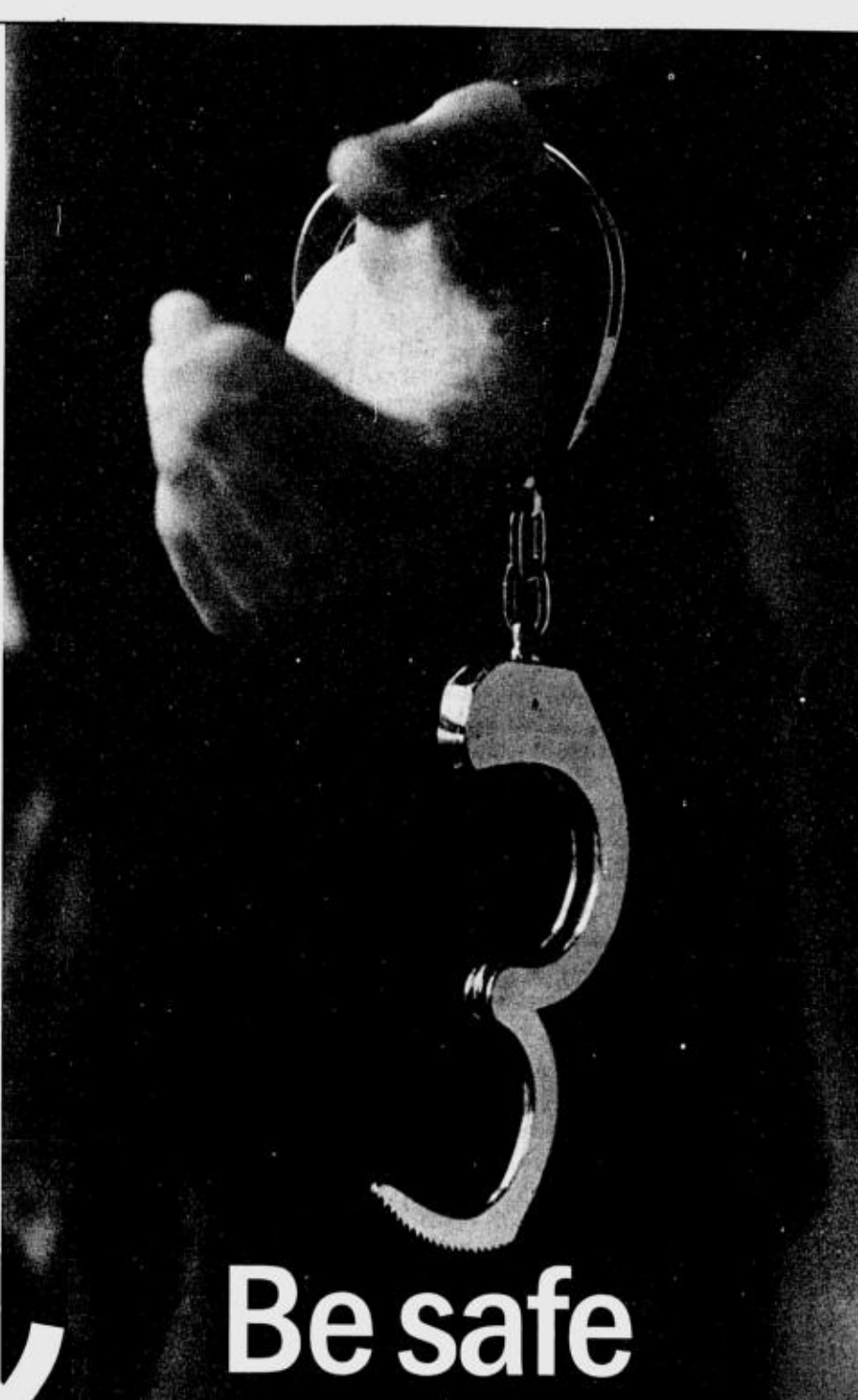
This was then expanded to include the purchase of 48 additional vehicles, although Trinidad said this would still be evaluated as 24 cars could already be sufficient at the moment.



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Internet firms OK partnership

INTER.NET, a leading global Internet service provider, yesterday announced a strategic partnership with the country's leading prepaid Internet access provider PhilWorld Online.

"The focus of the strategic partnership is to merge the strengths of the two groups: Inter.net in day-to-day technical activities and customer care, and PhilWorld in the distribution and retail side of the business," Inter.net Philippines president Fernando Contreras Jr. said in a news briefing yesterday.

About 70 percent of Inter.net's subscribers are corporate in nature, while PhilWorld's close to 50,000 users are consumers. This would result in the two companies' complementing each other's strengths.

Contreras also said that consolidation has become a trend in the ISP world since last year because "this was the only way to grow the business."

The Internet market had seen a plateau, according to him, so this was the only way to survive tough times like these.

As for completely acquiring PhilWorld in the future, Contreras said they were not discounting that possibility, but they were just focused on using each other's strengths to continue their growth in the Internet business.

PhilWorld managing director Rey Canlas said the partnership had resulted in higher cost savings for both companies as well as better service for their subscribers.

He added the Inter.net-PhilWorld partnership had plans to roll out an Internet-based short messaging or text messaging service, which would provide mobile Internet access at an affordable cost.

For this project, Contreras said they were talking to major telecommunications firms Smart Communications Inc. and Globe Telecom Inc. A commercial agreement is expected to be reached by end-October.

He said the plan was not exclusive to the Philippines, but was "part of a global plan of Inter.net."

Inter.net senior vice president for finance Robert Buktau said Inter.net's revenues had already gone up 35 percent because of the partnership, while its operating cost had gone up only 10 to 12 percent.

IMF ...

(From page B1)

changed, that is what greater uncertainty is defined as," she said.

"It seems to be that right now, both monetary and other policies have been adapted to what I would judge to be an appropriate degree, in light of uncertainties and in light of the fact that one can always move further if one needs to at a further date," she added.

Since the attacks, the United States has slashed interest rates and provided a fiscal boost with a \$40 billion spending increase, and policymakers are mulling further actions.

But Krueger's advice for US policymakers was, "Waiting and seeing would be a good next step."

On Europe, she said deeper structural reforms were needed for more rapid economic growth prospects and that the IMF was "pleased" by last week's interest rate cut there.

But she refused to be drawn on whether Europe should increase spending to bolster growth, saying that was an internal decision.

Krueger reiterated that Japan should move further to get banks on a sounder footing but said little else on that nation, which is teetering on the brink of recession again.

She said Latin America had already been hurt by slowing growth in the United States and Europe, meaning that, "the increased uncertainty ... may be somewhat greater there."

But she cautioned that, "There really is no reason in principle over the intermediate term why there should be that much of an impact on Latin America as a whole."

She added that in Mexico and elsewhere in the region growth should pick up when US growth resumes. On Brazil, where the real currency had rapidly depreciated since the attacks, she said that authorities there might consider increasing interest rates.

"They have already tightened liquidity somewhat and they may want to do a bit more on that score," she said, adding that the IMF was "monitoring the situation."

Noting that Russia should benefit from high oil prices, she said the former Soviet state, "does look better to withstand this better than others." She said economic growth in India should run at 4.5 percent to 5 percent this year and that China would also post strong economic growth this year.

She praised Pakistan for performing well under its IMF loan program for the first time ever and said the lender was "already on track" to consider a poverty reduction loan. "We are on track to go ahead with that."

She reiterated that the IMF and World Bank would like to reschedule a pared-back annual meeting, canceled on security concerns, for "later this fall" but that it was too early to talk about details of such a summit.

She noted there was a "reasonably strong possibility" that finance ministers from the Group of Seven would meet "in the reasonably near future" to discuss the global economy.

Reuters

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How the GSIS overcharges Napocor

THE FILIPINO people pay one of the highest electric rates in Asia. This is partly because the insurance premium National Power Corp. (Napocor) paid last year was heavily padded by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES



Honesto C. General

By law, Napocor, like any other government agency or instrumentality, has to insure its fixed assets with the GSIS. This monopoly leaves Napocor and other agencies at the tender mercies of the GSIS.

Napocor's current insurance policy is the state-of-the-art Industrial All Risks (IAR), the most extensive ever devised by man. It insures against "all risks of physical loss or damage including machinery breakdown and boiler explosion," except as specifically excluded. The properties covered are "all real and personal property of every kind, nature and description."

The policy has a liability limit of \$200 million on any one loss. Obviously, the GSIS cannot carry this amount all by itself. So, like any prudent insurer, the GSIS keeps for its own account only 5 percent. This is called the net retention, or, simply, retention. The 95-percent balance is reinsured, or ceded to other insurance companies who share in the fortunes and misfortunes of the GSIS. This transaction is reinsurance, a contract where the GSIS becomes the reinsured, the other party the reinsurer.

The policy is for 18 months, from March 1, 2000 to Sept. 30, 2001. The net premium is \$13.5 million. Net premium means the premium that the reinsurers charge, net of any commission. The GSIS kept 5 percent of the net premium to pay for its retention. The 95-percent balance, or \$12,825,000, was ceded to reinsurers. On this cession, the GSIS charged Napocor \$373,687 commission.

On the 95 percent of the net premium, the GSIS tacked on a 10-percent Expanded Value Added Tax (EVAT), or \$1,282,500. This is the first overcharge. Fortunately for us consumers, Napocor has refused to pay the tax. Under its charter, Napocor is free of all taxes, and the Bureau of Internal Revenue has affirmed that Napocor is E-VAT exempt. It looks like the GSIS wants Napocor to believe that the reinsurers are slapping the tax on the GSIS. But the GSIS is also tax-free. I am sure the GSIS knew exactly what it was doing.

The much bigger overcharge on the net premium is not easy to spot. It is common to slice a large sum insured into "layers." The first, or primary layer answers for most of the claims. If a claim goes beyond the limit of the first layer, the second layer kicks in and takes care of the excess. In an unusually large claim that goes beyond the combined limits of the first and second layers, the third layer handles the excess.

Each layer is a separate and distinct contract. The broker writes out the terms of a layer on a "placement slip" and passes it around to prospective reinsurers who indicate acceptance by signing at the bottom of the slip, hence the term "underwriter." All transactions are usually done in London, the world's reinsurance center.

Napocor's placement slip for the first and biggest layer, and the premium quoted by underwriters on it which the GSIS later passed on to Napocor, was for a 36-month reinsurance. But the policy the GSIS delivered to Napocor was for 18 months only. In other words, on the first layer, the GSIS billed and Napocor paid, for coverage for 36 months but was and continues to be covered only for only 18 months, up to the end of this month. The *ahem*, discrepancy cost Napocor almost \$8 million or a cool P400 million.

What probably happened later on was that after Napocor paid the net premium, the GSIS sent 95 percent of it to the broker in London. Then, the broker asked the reinsurers to cut down the 36-month cover to 18 months. In due time, he sent the premium for 18 months. He kept the rest of the money to be divvied up in London.

Napocor has a good case for demanding the entire refund, and is absolutely right on insisting that it conducts, next Wednesday, the bidding for the reinsurance on the policy that comes up for renewal at the end of the month. Let us all hope Napocor succeeds in cutting its insurance costs.

Meantime, the overcharge has ended up in the Filipino people's monthly electric bill.

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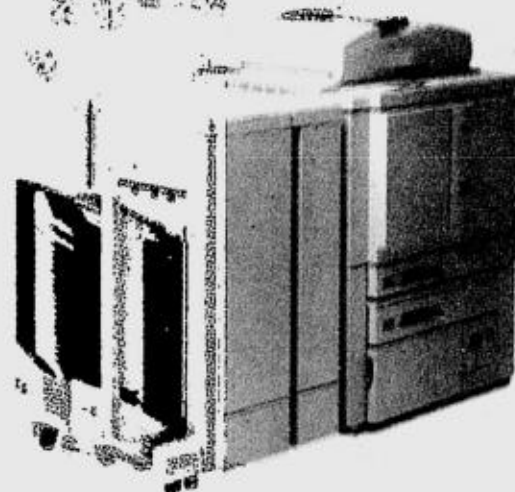
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JP Morgan to raise \$110M for PNOC-EDC

By CLARISSA S. BATINO

STATE-OWNED PNOC Energy Development Corp., the geothermal arm of Philippine National Oil Co., yesterday sealed an agreement with JP Morgan Chase for a five-year, \$110 million worth of borrowings that will be used to finance PNOC-EDC's maturing obligations in December.

PNOC-EDC's \$150 million worth of Euro bonds will mature in December.

The US-based investment bank had intended to raise for PNOC-EDC a total of \$150 million to fully cover its maturing obligations. But due to adverse market conditions following the terrorist attacks on the US, JP Morgan decided to cut the

amount to \$110 million.

PNOC-EDC president Sergio Apostol, however, said there was still a chance that JP Morgan Chase would still raise the remaining \$40 million. He added that Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi and Lehman Bros. were also willing to raise the \$40 million.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said the \$110-million deal with JP Morgan Chase "reflects the confidence of the global financial community in the Philippines and the solid business outlook for PNOC-EDC."

It was the first Asian debt issue since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the US.

JP Morgan Chase officials Simon Paterno and Roberto Panlilio

said the deal was a milestone as it was signed despite the very difficult time in the global financial markets.

Apostol, however, admitted that the cost of the borrowing reflected the uncertainties in the global markets. He said the borrowing would bear charges equivalent to 8.5 percent over the six-month London Interbank Offered Rate of about 2.7 percent.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura welcomed the deal.

"Any borrowing will help reduce the pressure on the central bank to borrow more to finance the deficit in external payments," said the BSP chief.

Buenaventura said an aggressive borrowing stance of the government and the private sector in the com-

ing months may forestall the central bank's planned long-term borrowing worth about \$600 million.

Normally, the BSP would have to dip into its dollar reserves to finance part of the balance-of-payments deficit.

Buenaventura said that the deterioration of the country's gross international reserves to a level lower than \$14 billion would prompt the central bank to take one of the loans offered by several financial institutions.

With the continued drop in exports, the government fears that the country's dollar reserves would decline to \$13.4 billion by yearend. The balance-of-payments deficit was expected to increase to \$1.9 billion from an earlier projection of \$1.1 billion.

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RP-BRITISH BUSINESS COUNCIL HOLDS LONDON MEET

Participants at the PBBC meeting in London: (From left) Chris Bautista, First Philippine Holdings; Consul Leo Herrera Lim; David Greer, Shell Philippines Exploration; Liana Romulo, Shell Philippines; Ramon Obias, PLDT; Cesar Buenaventura, BFE Financial Services; Guillermo Luz, Makati Business Club; Oscar Reyes, Shell Philippines; Monico Jacob, CEO Inc.; Cora de la Paz, Pricewater House; Peter Garrucho, First Philippine Holdings; UK Ambassador Alan Collins; Eamon Staunton, British commercial attaché; Ambassador Cesar B. Bautista; former Ambassador Jesus P. Tambunting, Planters Development Bank; Anthony Huang, Rustan's Inc.; Martin Skinner, British Trade International; and Vicente Casim, commercial attaché.

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Airlines to get help from gov't

THE GOVERNMENT yesterday said it would immediately take steps to support the country's airline industry after hijacker attacks in the United States raised airlines' insurance premiums worldwide.

The finance and transport departments have agreed to help the country's three airlines, Philippine Airlines (PAL), Air Philippines and Cebu Pacific, the Department of Finance said in a statement.

"The Philippine government has announced that it is willing to support the local airline industry in light of pressures arising from the decision of aviation insurers to cap war third-party liability coverage," the statement said.

It gave no details of the kind of support or the period over which it

would be given.

Global insurers have capped third-party war and terrorism insurance at \$50 million following the attacks on the United States, leaving airlines without much of their former war risk insurance cover and prompting many governments to offer help.

The Philippines joins the governments of China, Sri Lanka, South Korea, Thailand and Malaysia in throwing a lifeline to airlines in the wake of the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon two weeks ago.

Philippine Airlines, Asia's oldest airline, said last week it had lost P100 million to P150 million (\$1.9-\$2.9 million) when flights to and from the United States were halted following the attacks. **Reuters**

Malaysia backs DTI efforts to find new NSC investors

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

MALAYSIA'S debt rehabilitation agency Pengurusan Danaharta Nasional Bhd. has reportedly backed the Department of Trade and Industry's initiative to find an interim investor for National Steel Corp. that is mutually acceptable to both the company's majority owners and creditors.

A top-level source said Danaharta had informed Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II that it would support the DTI-led evaluation committee's process despite the pullout of Hottick Investment Ltd.-Renong Bhd. of Malaysia from the negotiating table.

The source said Danaharta has a say on what to do with Hottick-Renong's 80-percent stake in NSC since it was one of the Renong group's assets that were taken over by the Malaysian government.

Danaharta took over the 3-billion ringgit loan of Hottick Investments Co. from Malayan Banking, RHB Bank, Bank Bumiputra and Commerce Assetholding Bhd. Hottick was the investment vehicle used by Renong to bail out the original Malaysian owners of NSC, the Westmont group.

Roxas had earlier reported that Danaharta was surprised with Hottick-Renong's "unilateral withdrawal" from the committee and its

decision to pursue its previous lease contract agreement with Allengoal Corp. Roxas had suspended the operations of the committee pending the decision of Danaharta on the issue. Only one company, Voest Alpine, submitted its offer to lease NSC facilities last Friday as Cathay Pacific Steel Co. and Glencore International opted to wait for the committee to resolve the impasse before submitting their bids.

With Danaharta's anticipated go-ahead, the source said the evaluation committee could proceed with its task of picking the best investor group that would reopen and run NSC's Iligan factory which has

been closed since November 1999.

The committee was formed a few months ago to break the deadlock between NSC's owners and creditors which has kept NSC's plants idle for more than a year. The committee aimed to reach a settlement between the owners and creditors by choosing a mutually acceptable investor that would run the plant on an interim basis while they search for a long-term investor.

Creditor banks led by Philippine National Bank have at least P16 billion in loans to NSC and are locked in a legal battle with Hottick-Renong at the Securities and Exchange Commission for the liquidation of NSC's assets.

Gov't urged to securitize SMC stake

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

HOUSE Speaker Jose de Venecia is pushing for the securitization of the 27-percent government-sequestered stake in San Miguel Corp. and of the Marcos deposits held in escrow with the Philippine National Bank as part of government efforts to raise around \$2.8 billion in fresh funds.

De Venecia, who was the guest speaker during a luncheon meeting hosted by the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, also said he was supporting plans to securitize the government's stake in the Malampaya natural gas project.

He said securitization would bring in more investments to the country and would encourage the use of financial instruments in the local market. He said he was expecting Congress to pass the securitization bill, which he authored, before the Christmas season.

"This will make Philippine assets with strong cash flows eligible for securitization," De Venecia said.

De Venecia said the Philippines could not depend much on new foreign investments considering the slowdown of the global economy.

"We have to mobilize our internal assets. In the case of the Malampaya project, I'm proposing that we should securitize not the debt portion but the government's equity in it. This can raise for the government \$1 billion," De Venecia said.

In the case of the government's stake in SMC, 47 percent of the company is subject to legal dispute. SMC chair Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco was allowed by the Supreme Court to exercise the voting rights for 20 percent of SMC while the remaining 27-percent sequestered stake was being administered by the United Coconut Planters Bank through the Coconut Industry Investment Fund.

De Venecia said the government could raise around \$1.3 billion from the sale of the 27-percent stake held by the Presidential Commission on Good Government.

Meanwhile, De Venecia said it would also be a good idea to securitize the \$650 million worth of frozen Marcos deposits. He said Congress would help provide the legal framework to enable victims of human rights violations during the Marcos regime to claim \$150 million of the total amount.

GOINGS-ON

Unilab is among RP's 10 best

UNITED Laboratories, the country's biggest pharmaceutical firm, was named one of the 10 best employers in the region in a survey among Asia's top companies.

The survey, covering 355 respondent companies and 92,000 employees in the region, was a collaborative project of the US-based consulting firm Hewitt Associates, the Asian Wall Street Journal and the Far Eastern Economic Review.

Among those interviewed were CEOs, human resource managers and rank-and-file staff.

The selection criteria included policies affecting recruitment, orientation training, work environment, benefits and several other factors.

The survey covered China, Hong Kong, South Korea, Singapore, Taiwan, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and the Philippines.

SIA opens \$15-M service center

SINGAPORE Airlines (SIA) recently opened a one-stop service center in the heart of Orchard Road for its Priority Passenger Service (PPS) members, numbering 18,000 in Singapore alone. It is also available to SIA's 14,000 overseas PPS members when they are visiting Singapore.

Costing \$1.5 million and situated at the Paragon Shopping Center, the 478-square-meter center is conveniently located for PPS members to drop by and make travel arrangements. Its exclusivity is maintained through a personalized swipe-card entry system.

Inside the service center, a wide range of facilities and services are offered. Four service counters are provided where friendly and experienced staff can attend speedily to travel requests and general travel inquiries, including ticket sales, information on flight schedules, reservations, re-routing requests, seat allocation, redemption of KrisFlyer miles and ticket refunds.

Hatchasia enter 95% leased out

FORT Bonifacio Development Corp. reported that Hatchasia GlobalCity Center (HGCC), e-Square IT Park's second office building, is now 95 percent fully leased out.

HGCC is a 24,000 square-meter, five-level (including ground level and roof deck area) building located at Bonifacio Global City's e-Square IT Park. Anchor tenants include Hatchasia.com and its incubator offices, NEC Telecoms, Cypress Semi-conductors regional offices and PLDT-Teletel, among others.

Designed for the next generation of "netpreneurs," HGCC is suited for the country's existing IT-oriented and start-up companies. It is also ideal for IT companies involved in backroom operation facilities such as software development, data centers, contact centers, website development, and other related fields.

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DU-H3ETX Electric Tech Hot Product (28 May 2000)	DU-H3ETX Hardware Zone Four Star (27 June 2000)	DES-3225G Excellent rating of 7.95 out of 10 from Network World (February 2001)	DES-1008D Hardware Masters Editor's Pick Award (2000)
DWL-120 PC Magazine Editor's Choice Award (February 2001)	DWL-120 Tech Extreme Editor's Choice Award (5 March 2001)	DWL-120 Aware Award from Aware Magazine (2001)	DWL-series Very Good Rating Test Center Analysis in Info World (February 2000)

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(Source: IDC Asia Pacific 2000)

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SUN LIFE FINANCIAL INTRODUCES THE PRIME EARNER ACCOUNT

Ask Filipinos what they'd do if they receive a windfall of, say P 100,000, and many would say they'd put the money in conservative instruments and earn from its interest. This they do maybe because they want the perceived security of a traditional fixed-rate and fixed-term investment offer. Unfortunately, however, many fail to consider other investment vehicles that may give better returns while providing the security they are looking for in traditional savings instruments.

The Prime Earner Account is an option you should look into for it provides potentially better returns on your investment compared to traditional savings instruments. The Prime Earner Account was recently launched by the Sun Life Prosperity Funds, the first family of mutual funds in the Philippines.

A mutual fund is a relatively new concept of saving in the Philippines. In European and American countries, mutual funds are in fact, considered as the investment of choice by millions of people. In the United States alone, there are over \$6 trillion invested in mutual funds, with 48.9% of all American households having mutual fund holdings.

The concept behind mutual funds is simple: the investment company pools together money from its investors and these in turn are

invested in a diversified portfolio of securities for better long-term returns. Depending on your investment objectives and time horizon, investments are made in equities, fixed-income securities or both. For the Prime Earner Account, investments are in treasury notes issued and guaranteed by the Philippine government and corporate instruments issued by prime Philippine companies. With the Prime Earner Account, you are guaranteed a stress-free and affordable entrance into the world of income-generating securities. You quickly enjoy easy access to a diversified portfolio of fixed-income securities that would otherwise be expensive and time-consuming if you invest on your own.

The Prime Earner Account offers investors a way to enhance the return on their savings by investing in conservative securities. Plus, investing in the Prime Earner Account comes with a wealth of built-in advantages: (1) You benefit from the expertise and high-caliber management of Sun Life Financial Investment Managers like the Chartered Financial Analysts. These professionals provide advice to corporations, institutions or large individual accounts. They have the skills, knowledge, commitment and research capabilities, allowing them to decide what securities to buy or sell, and when, in order to meet the investment objectives of your portfolio in all economic conditions.

The Sun Life Financial investment management team are presently managing assets in excess of P24 billion. (2) You also avail of the services of highly-skilled and well-trained Mutual Fund Representatives, who can help you make wise decisions regarding your financial options. They can advise you regarding your investment, help you analyze your financial goals and map out plans to effectively maximize the growth of your money. (3) You obtain a well-diversified portfolio thus, safeguarding your capital from the negative effects of the market. (4) You can withdraw from your investment whenever the need arises. (5) A call center is provided so you can easily monitor your investment. (6) The Prime Earner Account is managed and distributed by the Sun Life Asset Management Company, a member of the Sun Life Financial group of companies.

In response to the ever growing sophistication of investors in spotting investment opportunities, Sun Life Financial is eager to lead the way in product innovation and creativity. The Prime Earner Account is the most recent example of its efforts to provide investors inventive ways of meeting their investment goals.

For more information on the Prime Earner Account, call the experts at 849-9999.

ADVT.

Economists see US rebound in 2002

WASHINGTON—Even though most economists say a US recession is inevitable in the wake of the Sept. 11 terror attacks, many have become increasingly optimistic that when a recovery finally arrives, it will be a strong one.

Hope about a light at the end of the tunnel for the economy helped to lift stock prices on Monday. After its worst week since the Great Depression, Wall Street bounced back, with the Dow Jones industrial average surging more than 4 percent.

There is widespread agreement that over the next six months, the economy—which was weak well before the deadly attacks in Washington and New York—will sink into an even deeper slump as nervous consumers shy away from vacations, trips to the shopping mall and even house-hunting.

But recessions, as painful as they are, are often followed by periods of strong growth. After months of hunkering down and bolstering their balance sheets, businesses and consumers can spend more freely and often do because of "pent-up" demand.

"It may seem like gloom and doom for the economy in the near future but it will clarify," said Victor Zarnowitz, a business-cycle expert who consults for the Conference Board in New York. "It may be that a recession is not the ultimate disaster."

Ripples spread

Both Zarnowitz and Diane Swonk, chief economist at Bank One Corp. in Chicago, said that over the next few months, the economic picture would remain very uncertain as effects of the attacks ripple through all corners of the economy.

Close to 7,000 people are dead or missing after teams of people hijacked four commercial airplanes on Sept. 11. Two jets rammed into the Trade Center's twin towers, one hit the Pentagon and a fourth crashed in Pennsylvania.

"Up front, it's hard to escape what could be classified as a recession," Swonk said.

Economists loosely define a recession as two straight quarters of falling gross domestic product. As recently as the second quarter of this year, the economy was teetering on the brink of recession, with GDP inching up a mere 0.2 percent.

Data on the third

quarter, which ends in September, won't be available until late October.

The typical economic recession in the post-World War II period has lasted 11 months. Some economists say the economy may have been in a recession as early as June or before, although others believe any contraction would have started with the terror attack.

Economists see mid-2002 as the most likely time when a recovery in the world's top economy could pick up steam.

Liquidity on the way

Swonk said that despite the economic devastation, "over the long haul, we're putting a tremendous amount of liquidity into the economy."

Eight interest-rate cuts by the Federal Reserve will help rev up growth. And Washington has cast off its self-imposed fiscal straitjacket. Prior to the attacks, lawmakers and the Bush administration were talking of potential budget cuts in order to avoid tapping into the politically sensitive Social Security trust fund.

However, within a few days of the hijack attacks, Congress approved a \$40-billion emergency package to fund counter-terrorism and recovery efforts. With the country in shock over the attacks, lawmakers of both parties have said money was not the issue and they expected to spend more.

Swonk said business spending could also pick up, helped along by some unexpected consequences of the attack. For example, some businesses are investing in new telecommunications equipment and diversifying their information networks.

Mark Zandi, chief economist at Economy.com in West Chester, Pennsylvania, said there is a certain logic to what economists are referring to as a V-shaped scenario in which the economy contracts then rebounds strongly.

"By this time next year, the economy should be expanding and unemployment should no longer be rising and may begin to fall," he said.

But Zandi added that scenario assumes that any military action the United States takes will be finished by next year and that there will be no further terrorist attacks.

In addition to the risk of another attack—which could send consumers into hiding again—Zandi said there is the peril that, as the downturn progresses, those burdened with high debt loads get into financial trouble, potentially hurting banks and other lenders.

But so far, economists say the financial system appears to be in decent health. **Reuters**

Honeywell announces 3,800 more job cuts

MORRIS TOWNSHIP—Honeywell International announced Monday that its job cuts this year would total 15,800.

The high-tech manufacturer had said previously that it expected to lay off at least 12,000 of its work force.

The company announced the higher number—which represents 13 percent of the company's worldwide work force—at a meeting with analysts Monday in New York.

Spokesperson Tom Crane said about three-quarters of the people to be laid off this year has been notified.

The job cuts announced in the past several days—including an additional 3,800 last week—are mostly in the firm's aerospace division, Crane said.

He said a downturn in the commercial airline business, which was intensified by terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, is the cause of the cuts.

Honeywell's operations in Phoenix, where its aerospace division has headquarters, will be hit hardest. But Crane did not say how many jobs will be cut there.

Last week, Honeywell said third-quarter earnings will fall short of estimates, coming in at 43 cents to 45 cents per share. Analysts surveyed by Thomson Financial/First Call projected third-quarter earnings per share of 53 cents.

Honeywell closed at \$27.84, up \$3.04 or more than 12 percent, on the New York Stock Exchange on Monday. **AP**

More HK people worried about faltering economy

HONG KONG—Hong Kong people are increasingly worried about the territory's faltering economy and dissatisfaction with the government is growing, according to a recent government survey.

"Economy-related problems" topped the list of worries of 55 percent of people surveyed from September 10-14, up from 44 percent in a similar poll in July.

Worries over job security came second followed by concern over the lack of affordable housing.

Hong Kong is teetering on the brink of its second recession in three years and its economic prospects have been further clouded by devastating attacks on the United States, a key trading partner.

Financial Secretary Antony Leung warned of more difficult days ahead when he said on Monday that the government would cut its economic growth forecast again for 2001. The figure was only recently slashed to one per-

cent from 3 percent.

Consumer sentiment is weak, property prices are bumping along at about half their 1997 peaks and the territory's blue-chip share Hang Seng Index has lost nearly 40 percent so far this year.

The unemployment rate edged up to 4.9 percent in June-August, its highest level in a year, and analysts say more job losses are on the cards.

In the survey, 50 percent of respondents felt they had little or no confidence at all in the future prosperity and stability of Hong Kong, the highest figure since the British colony returned to Chinese rule in July 1997.

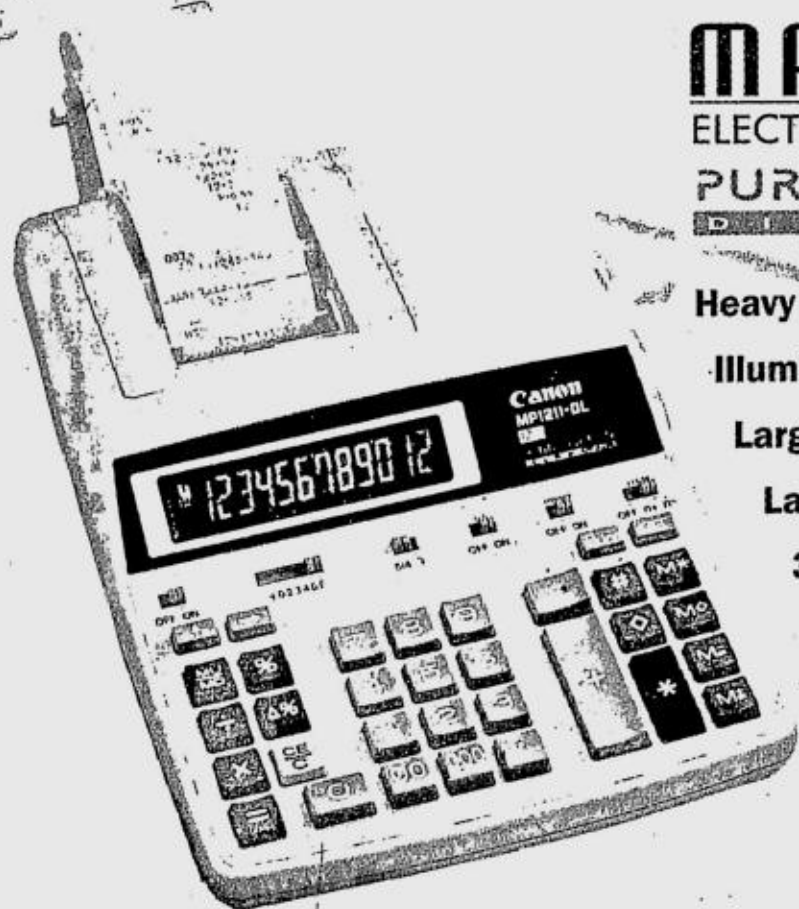
Conversely, 44 percent expressed confidence, down from 80 percent just after the handover.

The survey also showed that dissatisfaction with the government was on the rise at 56 percent, up from 51 percent in July.

About 1,400 people were polled by the Home Affairs Bureau. **Reuters**

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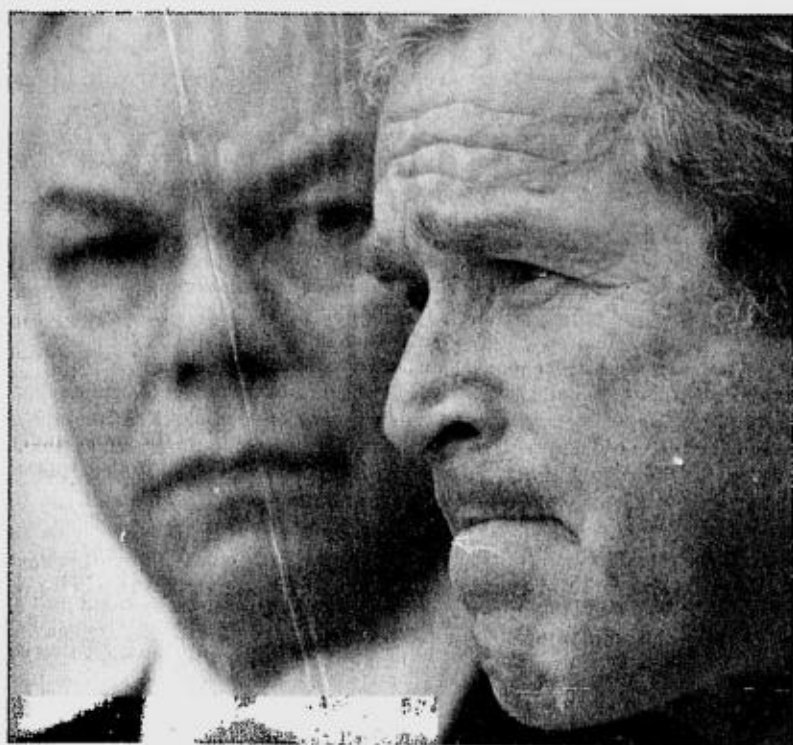
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US President George W. Bush responds to a reporter's question as Secretary of State Colin Powell looks on, after they announced the signing of a bill that will freeze the US assets of terrorists and terrorist organizations and prohibit American companies from doing business with them.

ANEMIC GROWTH

World adapts to poor outlook

NEW YORK—Investors and governments struggled on Monday to adapt to a global economy now marked by anemic growth, as Wall Street staged a dramatic rally after last week's steep declines, defying the threat of a US-led war.

In Washington, US President George W. Bush froze assets linked to those thought responsible for terror attacks on the United States and insisted that the US economy, widely thought to be in recession now, remained fundamentally sound.

Bush's remarks at the White House helped boost US stock prices as investors picked out bargains in a market hammered last week by the steepest percentage decline since the Great Depression of the 1930s.

The Dow Jones industrial average closed 4.5 percent higher, up 368 points for its fifth-biggest daily point gain ever. The technology-heavy Nasdaq index finished up 5.4 percent.

"I want to assure the American people that the fundamentals for growth are very strong," Bush said. "There's no question the attacks have affected America. But I think when the investors

sit back and take a hard look at the fundamentals of the economy they'll get back in the market."

He added: "You bet there's problems with our economy short run, but not long run."

Bush has vowed an all-out "war against terrorism" against those responsible for the Sept. 11 terror attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon that left nearly 7,000 feared dead. Washington has named Islamic militant Osama bin Laden, thought to be sheltering in Afghanistan, as the prime suspect in the attacks.

Most economists think the \$10-trillion US economy, which was already at a standstill before the strikes, is now firmly in the grips of recession. Amid weakened consumer confidence and business investment in the wake of the deadly events, few expect it to bounce back before next year.

But expectations of further monetary easing—the Federal Reserve and other top central banks already cut interest rates in a concerted round last week—are running high. Billions of dollars in new government spending plans also should help the economy regain at least some of its poise, economists say.

A steep drop in oil prices should give central banks additional room for easing by helping to keep inflation down.

Oil prices plunged by nearly 15 percent on Monday, their biggest collapse since the Gulf War over a decade ago, as worries over US retaliation strikes were eclipsed by concerns over the sputtering world economy and falling energy demand.

In Washington, International Monetary Fund First Deputy Managing Director Anne Krueger added her voice to the chorus of upbeat officials, saying she did not see a global recession either this year or next despite increased economic uncertainty following the Sept. 11 attacks.

Reuters

Japanese airlines ask gov't for aid

TOKYO—Japan's top three airlines met with government officials Tuesday to ask for financial assistance in the wake of the terrorist attacks in the United States, airlines and government officials said.

The presidents of Japan Airlines Co. Ltd., All Nippon Airways Co. Ltd., and Japan Air System Co. Ltd. met with the bureau's director general, Kenichi Fukaya, said an official at Japan's Civil Aviation Bureau.

The meeting was to seek assistance for the Japanese airline industry because of a downturn in demand and increased costs, said JAL spokesperson Geoffrey Tudor.

JAL and No. 2 carrier ANA lost an estimated 3.3 billion yen (\$28.2 million) between them in revenue from Sept. 11 to 15 alone when US airspace was shut down after the attacks by hijacked aircraft, the companies said last week.

Japanese airlines were told by insurers last week their premiums were likely to rise by \$1.25 a passenger as a result of the increased risk, officials from JAL and ANA said.

The increase would be "several times" what the airlines pay currently, said Yukihiko Harada, spokesperson for Tokio Marine and Fire Insurance Co., which handled the insurance for ANA and JAL.

Both airlines carry about 45 million passengers annually, so the insurance hike would mean millions of dollars in additional costs.

One of the topics for discussion was insurance, Tudor said.

"In other countries around the world, governments have promised support with insurance and maybe the Japanese government will follow that course of action."

Tokio Marine said it would raise premiums as of Oct. 1 in line with a move by insurance underwriters in London, said Harada.

From Tuesday, the maximum insurance payouts for third parties, such as building owners or victims on the ground was slashed to \$50 million from \$2 billion in crashes caused by terrorism or war, although the insurance cover for passengers would not change, ANA said.

"We had no choice but to change insurance contracts in line with our underwriters," said Harada.

Along with asking for government assistance, ANA is considering passing on the higher insurance premiums to customers. AFP

Singapore to revise growth forecast

SINGAPORE—Recession-hit Singapore said on Tuesday it would revise its 2001 economic growth target on Oct. 7 in the wake of the US attacks, Trade and Industry Minister George Yeo told parliament.

"We expect the (third quarter) flash forecast to be out on Oct. 7. When that forecast is out, we will also revise our GDP (gross domestic product) estimate for this year," Yeo said.

Yeo said Singapore saw unemployment this year and next year being worse than expected. The government

previously said it expected job losses to top 20,000 in 2001.

Singapore, suffering from a downturn in the global electronics sector and a US economic slowdown even before the Sept. 11 attacks, had an already reduced growth forecast of 0.5 to 1.5 percent for this year. Reuters

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PROTESTERS march during an anti-globalization demonstration in Liege, 100 kilometers east of Brussels, where EU Finance ministers met for a two day-council.

Record 92% of Japanese pessimistic on economy

TOKYO—A record level of more than 90 percent of Japanese are pessimistic about the future of the economy with many workers fearful for their jobs, according to a survey released by an economic daily.

The weekend poll by the Nihon Keizai newspaper found 92 percent of people surveyed voiced concern over the world's number two economy—the highest level since it began taking such polls in 1987, eclipsing 90 percent recorded in October 1998 when Japan was in the middle of a banking crisis.

In their latest survey, 61 percent of the public said Japan's economy would not improve in the near future while 31 percent believed it would deteriorate further.

Only 6 percent said the economy would improve gradually, while the remaining 2 percent said they could not tell the future course, the Nihon Keizai said.

The survey also found 45 percent said they were concerned about whether they could keep their jobs, while 38 percent did not have immediate employment worries but were still unsure about the future.

This meant a total of 83 percent fear job losses, another record high, exceeding 80 percent polled in December 1999, the newspaper said.

As for a controversial pledge by Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi to limit new government bond issues at 30 trillion yen

(\$255 billion), 48 percent were in favor and 44 percent called for more flexibility.

The daily telephoned 3,000 adults nationwide on Sept. 21 to 23 for the survey, of whom 59 percent responded.

At the time of the last record gloomy sentiment polled in October 1998, huge bad loans had forced Long-term Credit Bank of Japan to become the nation's first bank to be nationalized since World War II.

The troubled lender, established in 1952 to drive Japan's post-war industrial revival, now has a new life under the name of Shinsei Bank Ltd. after Tokyo sold it to an investment consortium led by Ripplewood Holdings LLC of the United States. **AFP**

Napster strikes \$36-M deal with music publishers Indonesia set to open rice market in 2003

SAN JOSE, California—Edging closer to legitimacy, Napster Inc. on Monday tentatively settled a lawsuit filed by music publishers and struck a deal that could lead to legal and fee-based song distribution online.

Under the proposed settlement with the National Music Publishers' Association, Napster will pay \$26 million for past unauthorized use of music and \$10 million as down payment on future royalties.

The deal also sets up terms under which songwriters and music publishers can license music to Napster's upcoming fee-based service, which is now expected to be launched by the end of the year.

"This will enable Napster to move forward with the launch of its new service, knowing that

a growing range of content will be available to consumers," said Napster chief executive Konrad Hilbers.

But Napster, which has been shut down since early July, still has big hurdles to overcome, including the resolution of lawsuits filed by the major labels that own the performance rights.

Both the performance and publishing copyright issues must be resolved before a song can be legally distributed on Napster or anywhere else. Monday's deal covers only the publishing rights of up to 700,000 songs.

Officials were hopeful that the agreement could serve as a framework for future settlements.

Under the agreement, a portion of the revenue collected for each song would be reserved for royalty payments. Of that amount, one-third would be paid to the publishers and songwriters,

officials said.

The NMPA led efforts to have Napster's free service turned off earlier this year for allowing copyright infringement, and its members were now developing their own fee-based services for distributing music online.

Napster has been shut down since late summer, when it tried to better comply with a federal judge's order and strengthen the filtering of copyright music turned into extended downtime.

There are questions about how useful Napster's service will be when it returns and whether consumers will be able to transfer music to portable players or onto compact discs.

"(Monday's agreement) will matter only when the service comes up and we can see what it looks like," said PJ McNealy, an analyst at Gartner Dataquest. "From a consumers' standpoint, this means nothing." **AP**

JAKARTA—Indonesia is committed to opening its rice market in 2003 when the Asean Free Trade Area comes into force, Agriculture Minister Bungaran Saragih said Tuesday.

"We are ready because our (rice) production costs are, in reality, lower than those in Thailand and Vietnam. Our problem is a problem in the distribution system," Saragih said.

"We have remained committed (to Afta), and there are no reasons to withdraw that commitment," he added.

Indonesia's rice trade is strictly regulated.

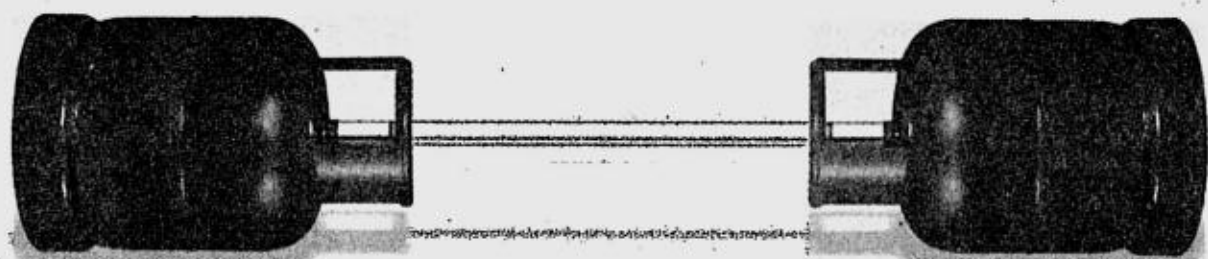
Production is supported through

subsidized prices for fertilizers, low interest credits to farmers and a government-set floor price.

Saragih said rice production costs in Indonesia were \$70 per ton compared with around \$90 per ton for Thailand and Vietnam.

Indonesian productivity per hectare was also higher, he said, with an average of 4.5 tons of unhusked rice produced per hectare compared with up to 2.8 tons per hectare in Thailand and Vietnam.

Under Afta, tariffs on imports among the most developed Asean members are due to fall to below 5 percent at the start of 2003. **AFP**



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Asean auto sales up 7%, but future dim

SINGAPORE—Motor vehicle sales in the four biggest Southeast Asian markets climbed 7 percent from a year ago to 577,671 units in the first seven months of the year, an industry report said.

However, regional sales are forecast to fall on waning consumer confidence, particularly in the Philippines and Indonesia, Automotive Resources Asia Ltd. said in a report on Tuesday.

The report covers Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand, the four biggest markets in the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Sales in Thailand rose 14 percent to 162,985 units from 142,586 units last year.

A total 216,940 vehicles were sold in Malaysia, up 11 percent from 194,847 a year ago.

Vehicle sales in Indonesia were up just 0.1 percent to 155,142 units from 154,987 last year. The Philippines saw sales drop 14 percent to 42,604 units from 49,302 vehicles.

"We expect vehicle sales in Asean's big four markets to decline as consumers' confidence continues to fall," said May Arthapan, an associate at ARA.

"Our concerns lie in such vulnerable markets as Indonesia and the Philippines, in which sales have already been weakened by internal political and social problems," she said.

Malaysia's Proton remains the leader with a 20-percent share of the market, followed by Toyota with 16 percent and Mitsubishi with 11 percent.

AFP

Asian airlines seek insurance backing, but most still flying

HONG KONG—Sri Lanka's national carrier grounded its aircraft, but other Asian airlines remained airborne after governments pledged to back airlines whose war-coverage insurance policies expired Tuesday.

"We are hoping the government will come in to help," said Neeraj Kumar, SriLankan Airlines' chief financial officer, adding that flights had been grounded up to 2 p.m. local time.

Airlines worldwide were effectively switched to new policies that limited coverage for war or terrorist attacks to \$50 million a year—well below the usual coverage of \$1 billion or more.

The move followed the terror attacks two weeks ago on the World Trade Center and Pentagon using hijacked aircraft.

Many governments announced earlier that they would cover any shortfall in coverage while airlines sought additional insurance.

But in Asia, several were still mulling the issue.

Hong Kong's three airlines, passenger carrier Cathay Pacific Airlines and Hong Kong Dragon Airlines and cargo carrier Hong Kong Air, all managed to work out last minute deals with private insurers. They, thus, avoided the need to tap government guarantees promised Monday by legislators reluctant to provide a bailout.

Government and industry officials in South Korea, Taiwan, Malaysia and the Philippines said the issue was still under discussion.

The Taiwan government agreed to local airlines' requests to charge each passenger an extra \$2.50 in insurance premiums for overseas flights effective Oct. 1. The increase would include \$1.25 in war-risk

insurance and \$1.25 in hull-war insurance premiums, according to Alex Shih, a spokesperson at Taipei Aviation Association.

An extra charge of TS\$60 (\$1.71) applies to domestic flights, he said.

The Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Transportation and Communications were meeting Tuesday morning to discuss guarantees for war insurance.

"We are most worried about the coverage limitation because none of our airlines would be able to bear the cost and once it (an incident) happens, it is likely to force an airline to go bankrupt," said Benny Tsao, another aviation official.

Philippine Airlines Inc. said Tuesday it was in talks with foreign insurers on additional coverage but was optimistic the government would bridge any gap.

"I think the government will help us in that regard," said Avelino Zapanta, president of the troubled airline, which is already in the midst of financial restructuring.

Malaysian Airlines was seeking government financial assistance of up to 2 billion ringgit (\$526 million), the local newspaper Business Times reported Tuesday. Officials weren't immediately available to comment on the report.

The South Korean government planned to announce later Tuesday the scope of its support for the country's airline industry in the wake of the attacks and as the US considers possible retaliatory military actions in Central Asia.

SriLankan Airlines, run jointly by the Sri Lankan government and Dubai-based Emirates Airlines was already affected by soaring insurance premiums following a July 24 attack on Sri Lanka's only international airport and key air base by separatist Tamil Tiger rebels that destroyed 12 aircraft including four commercial aircraft.

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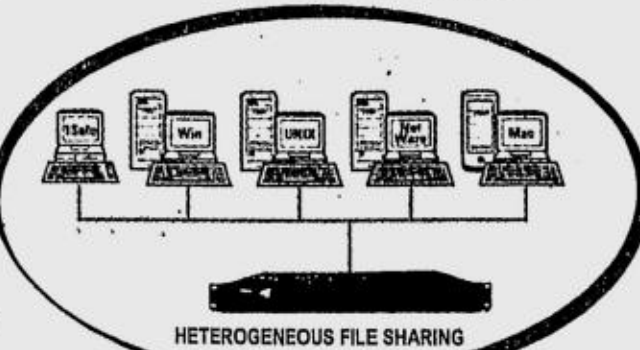
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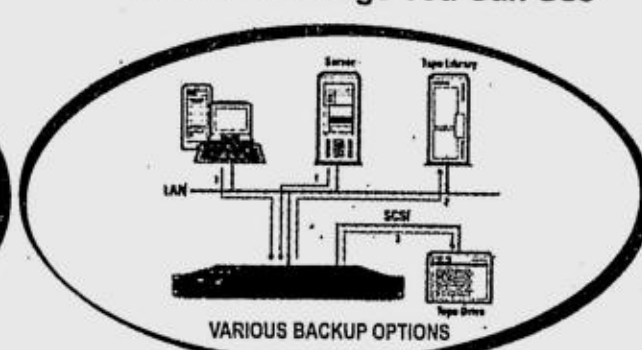


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MESSAGES



Warmest greetings to the men and women of Semicon Integrated Electronics Corporation as they celebrate their 25th year anniversary.

The telecommunications industry's impressive growth over the last years has been very inspiring. Its expanding reach continues to empower our people and fuels the expansion of our businesses and industries. But despite these positive developments, many of our countrymen still have no access to this vital service especially those in remote rural areas. This is among the compelling reasons why my Administration has placed at the center of our development program the strengthening of our information and communications technology capability. We aim to realize the enormous economic potential that this rapidly growing sector promises and enable the Filipino to ultimately raise his or her quality of living.

Towards this end, the role of the private sector cannot be overemphasized, given its resources and diversified competence and expertise. In this respect, I commend Semicon for your leadership and dynamism over the last 25 years as evidenced by your success in shifting from wireless communication business to mobile cellular marketing. Your strategic move and projection of future trends has proved right and paved the way for your growth as a dominant marketing leader of mobile cellular communications devices.

As you mark this milestone in the history of your organization, may you remain committed to the ideals of excellence, innovation and dynamism that have propelled your company to success in this uncertain future we are threading. In doing so, you will be contributing your share in the attainment of our national aspiration for progress and modernization. Happy Anniversary and More power to all of you!

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President
Republic of the Philippines



My Warmest greetings and congratulations to the management and staff of SEMICON INC. On its 25th Anniversary celebration on 24 September 2001.

Having been included in the top 2000 corporations for the year 1999-2000 is proof that your products and services are of high quality standard. Through the years, you have evolved as one dynamic telecommunications marketing organizations because of your continuous setting of standards in marketing innovation, world-class technical excellence and customer care. Your success is an encouragement to other communications marketing companies to pursue a firm resolve to provide its customers excellent services and products that are of the highest quality. Again, my congratulations. Mabuhay.

Pantaleon Q. Alvarez
Secretary
Department of Transportation and Communications



Greetings! Let me first extend my warmest congratulations to the officers and staff of SEMICON, Inc. As it celebrates its 25th year of successful existence, truly a milestone in the field of telecommunication marketing.

Man can no longer deny that the world has come a long way. From the fiber of writing paper to fiber optics and may be rapidly losing ground to the third generation (3G) technology. With the onslaught of modern communications technology, the world has become a colony of interdependent and inter related nation states. These modern life has spawned its own complexities that compels us to have a superior and competent telecommunication arm like SEMICON Inc. That will set the phase of integrity and excellence in marketing in response to every Filipino's evolving need to enhance communication.

We in the government service can master from the dedication and passion that your company has put forth in pursuit of your corporate objective. With admiration, we again say to you-congratulations and keep up the outstanding work that you have done for the telecommunications industry.

Eliseo M. Rio Jr.
Commissioner
National Telecommunications Commission



Our warmest congratulations to Semicon on its 25th anniversary.

Semicon's display of resiliency over the challenging years is remarkable and has paved the way to success. Their determination and strong foundation has enabled them to withstand adversities and rise above the challenge. With Semicon's unwavering commitment to provide quality products and effective services, the Company will surely have more meaningful years to celebrate in the future.

Undoubtedly, the celebration of Semicon's 25 shining years is a toast to its strong leadership and admirable team. As Nokia's long time partner in providing cutting edge, value-laden products and dynamic customer service, we value the commitment that Semicon has shared in this partnership.

We look forward to celebrating more milestones with you in the future. Mabuhay!

Parikshit Bhasin
Country General Manager
Nokia Mobile Phones



It is an accomplishment for a company to change and grow with the times as SEMICON has. May the success of your first twenty five years be the foundation for an even more successful future.

Happy Anniversary from Ericsson Telecommunications, Inc.

Sincerely,

Robert Etteborn
President
Ericsson Telecommunications, Inc.



Congratulations to SEMICON on its 25th year Anniversary!

Semicon has never faltered in its desire to see a country completely connected. We, at SMART, are moved by this pioneering spirit. Throughout the years, Semicon has shared our vision and passion for providing the nation with the best of innovations. On your 25th year, we hope that you will continue to lead the way in providing the country with communications services. More power to you!!

Napoleon E. Nazareno
President and CEO
SMART Communications, Inc.



Congratulations to SEMICON on its silver anniversary!

May our long-standing partnership continue to reap solid performance and sterling achievements in the coming years. Here's looking forward to a more powerful connectivity between our companies. Onward to the digital future, SEMICON...more power to you!

Rowena Blas
Vice President for Marketing
Globe Telecom



DIGITEL joins the business world in congratulating SEMICON on their 25th anniversary. We have the pleasure of working with SEMICON for the past years, joining forces in distributing the DIGIKARD PrepaidPhone Card and the GAS Prepaid Internet Card. The success of DIGIKARD & GAS in their respective markets is a result of the collaborative efforts between DIGITEL and SEMICON. We look forward to more years of fruitful and mutually beneficial business partnership with SEMICON as DIGITEL seeks wider markets for its products and services.

Johnson Robert L. Go
Senior Executive Vice President
DIGITEL



On the Occasion of your 25th anniversary, we would like to congratulate and extend to you our best wishes.

As your partner bank we assure you that we will continue to anticipate your needs and provide the excellent service that you deserve. We wish you continued success. More power to you!

William C. Whang
Senior Vice President
International Exchange Bank

In behalf of the EQUITABLE SAVINGS BANK Family, we take this opportunity to express our gratitude for keeping your faith in us. Your loyalty and confidence in us is reward enough and can only inspire us to do better. CONGRATULATIONS AND HAPPY 25th ANNIVERSARY!

Vivian J. Melica
Branch Head
Equitable Savings Bank Masinag Branch



To our valued Customer,

As the worlds of computing and communications converge, and technology is on the threshold of enabling people and machines to access and communicate information seamlessly, and more efficiently from anywhere, anytime and at their convenience via the wonders of wireless telecommunication, we are honored to say that we have been there for you.

Over the years, SEMICON has been playing a significant role in making such a scenario happen. In fact, it has long been our mission and prime motivation to answer every Filipino's evolving communication need in the 21st century by spearheading the cause of telecommunication through nationwide marketing.

In the Philippines, we have asserted ourselves as the dominant telecommunication marketing network. Now, on the occasion of your 25th year anniversary we are proud to report that the same dedication and commitment that has seen us through hardships and difficulties in the past, continue to be the driving force that propels us today.

Our vision rests upon the continued setting of the standard in marketing innovation, customer-care and world-class technical excellence that has been the hallmark of SEMICON through the years.

We thank you for your long years of loyal patronage of our products and services and hereby renew our pledge to serve you even better in the years to come as we continually envision a dynamic Filipino nation through better communication. MABUHAY!

Leo Villalon
President and CEO
SEMICON Inc.

www.semicon.net

September 26, 2001 Philippine Daily Inquirer

SEMICON 25TH SILVER ANNIVERSARY

a celebration of brilliance in telecommunications marketing

A LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP

CORPORATE VISION

As the world shifts into the area of globalization, SEMICON continuously sets the standard in marketing innovation, world-class technical excellence and customer care, envisioning a dynamic nation through better communication.

Our MISSION

Having firm belief in the power of communication as an essential tool for progress and national unity, SEMICON vows to spearhead the cause of telecommunications through nationwide marketing, answering every Filipino's evolving communication need in the 21st century.

Humble Beginnings



Perceiving the growth of telecommunications in the late seventies, SEMICON ventured into wireless communication business by developing two-way radio communication products such as repeater systems, antennas, duplexers, power supplies and telephone patches. Using advanced microprocessor controlled circuits, SEMICON products gained a loyal following among amateur, private and government users introducing the

high standard of quality and excellence which will be the identity of SEMICON products for years to come.

In 1991, realizing the promise of cellular communication as a soon to be dominant technology, Mr. Leo L. Villalon co-founder and President of SEMICON, made a strategic shift from the manufacture and marketing of quality Radio and Electronics consumer and industrial products, to mobile cellular marketing.

This move, coupled with exclusive partnerships with renowned cellular technology leaders, NOKIA of Finland, ERICSSON of Sweden, and ALCATEL of France as well as other big name players in the field both here and abroad, has garnered for the company the exclusive privilege of being the current marketing leader. This together with a strong sense of quality and customer service eventually resulted in the success story that is SEMICON today.

LUZON

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Cooyeesan Mall (sem-bgc@semicon.net)
Jenra Grand Mall (sem-jen@semicon.net)
SM San Fernando (sm-sanfernando@semicon.net)

METRO MANILA

HEAD OFFICE (www.semicon.net)
ORTIGAS SALES OFFICE (dmd-ctr@semicon.net)
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SM FAIRVIEW (sm-fairview@semicon.net)
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GLOBE TELECOM
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HANDYPHONE 1997 GLOBE HANDYPHONE
(DEALER OF THE YEAR 1998, BEST IN CUSTOMER SERVICE
1998, BEST IN SALES AWARD 1998, DEALER OF THE YEAR AWARD
1999, 1ST PLACE BEST IN PREPAID SALES 1999, 2ND PLACE BEST IN
POSTPAID SALES 1999, 3RD PLACE BEST IN CALLCARDS SALES 1999, OT STAR
PARTNER AWARD 1999, 1ST RUNNER UP DEALER OF THE YEAR AWARDS-2000,
2ND HIGHEST PHONEKIT & SIM PACK SALES-YEAR 2000, 2ND HIGHEST POST PAID
PRODUCTION-YEAR 2000) SMART COMMUNICATIONS 5 YEARS PENTAGON
DEALERSHIP AWARD - 1994 TO 1999 • QUOTA BUSTER OF THE YEAR-1996 • DEALER OF
THE YEAR-1996 SMART CELFONE TOP DEALER AWARD-1997 • TOP DEALER AWARD-
1998 ERICSSON SEMICON MEGAMALL GRAND PRIZE WINNER • PROJECT ESCAPE-
DISPLAY CONTEST-1997 • SEMICON NORTH EDSA 1ST RUNNER UP • PROJECT ESCAPE 1-
DISPLAY CONTEST-1997 ALCATEL MOST AGGRESSIVE CHANNELING PARTNER AWARD-1999
PLAQUE OF APPRECIATION FOR SUPPORT NOKIA PISO PARA SA PASIG
PROJECT-1997 • AGRILINK-1996 - 1999 RACE MOTORSPORTS CLUB 1996 NISSAN
SLALOM SERIES SPEED COMMUNICATIONS INC.-1997 MOTOROLA 2 WAY RADIO DEALER
OF THE YEAR 1995 • TOP PERFORMER AWARD 1997 EASYPOLL MARKET LEADERSHIP
AWARD 1996

Here We Grow Again!

In Keeping with Semicon's sworn commitment of reaching every Filipino telecommunication need. More branches will soon be open to serve the company growing clientell This is further proof of Semicon's desire to serve the nation through worry-free communication.

SOON TO OPEN THIS YEAR

The Powerplant Mall, Rockwell
The Podium - Ortigas Centre
SM City Davao
and MORE to come next year!

The Innovation Continues...

SEMICON
YOUR NATIONWIDE TELECOM MARKETING NETWORK

SEMICON is an institution in the field of telecommunication marketing. Its success lies mainly on its commitment to technical excellence and customer care. It is currently leading the nation in the field of quality and efficient communication through telecom marketing. For inquiries please call 681-4965 or 681-4964 (Fax)

Carrying the company's wide range of products and technical services, and opening under the motto: "We Sell Because We Care" an endearing precept that echoes SEMICON's passion to operate a retail chain of dealers in marketing multi-lines and multi-brands of wireless communication products. For inquiries please call Mr. Garille M. Pio (Senior Dealer Coordinator) 681-4965 loc. 264 or 681-4964 (Fax)



A card that opens a window of opportunities for unlimited discounts in products, services, places, leisure, giveaways and surprises galore! All that excitement in one card, that's the Semicon VIP+Card! So, what difference can one card make in your life? Think VIP plus! For inquiries please call Mr. Jing A. De Santos (VIP+Card Coordinator) 681-4965 loc. 206 or 681-4964 (Fax)

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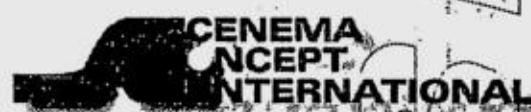


The Semicon High-tech Service Center is in itself a multi-million investment at par with global criterion technology and equipped with the latest diagnostic and calibration instruments ensuring quality repair of all the different telecommunication gadgets. For inquiries please call 249 - 0699

A Web-based remittance service that focuses on the needs of Overseas Filipino Workers and Migrants abroad. It has initially tied-up with International Exchange Bank as its main delivery network: Click2Manila uses the latest web based facilities to provide a fast, safe and more reliable way of sending money to the Philippines. For inquiries please call Mr. Conner T. Zafra (Special Projects Manager) 0917-9267995



Utilizing the latest in Internet Technology, the Semicon E-Store offers a variety of payment schemes from Credit, Debit and ATM cards, to Cash on Delivery services. The Semicon E-Store making the future of E-commerce a lot more brighter! For inquiries please call Mr. Ray John Pantone (Web Developer/Programmer) Ms. Karol Anne B. Dodds (E-Store Coordinator) 681-4965 loc. 233 / 232



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www.semicon.net

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- National Ref 2405 FQ (2 Door)
- National washing machine w/ spin dry 45R2 (4.5kg)
- Samsung Microwave 610 WA
- Sharp CTV (14") 14VKS0
- 3D Turbo Fan
- Sony DVD Player SK300

AREA 2 GRAND PRIZE
AUDIO-VIDEO SHOWCASE

- Sharp CTV (20") 20VK 80
- Entertainment Center KSI 102
- Nova CD Component BL 24
- Samsung VCD player 2-100 S
- Sharp VHS player VCDP
- National Stand fan F40 SWX
- Sony walkman FX193

AREA 3 GRAND PRIZE
BEDROOM SHOWCASE

- DC-1200 display cabinet, laminated Size: 1800 x W300 x 1200H
- SL-84 Telephone Rack
- (Hotel Ortho) Forty Carat mattress only Queen 60 x 70
- Natasha Queen size bed w/ HB, DF & BF w/ wooden post
- (A1-151) wardrobe, laminated made in Malaysia
- size: 1200 x 620 x 1768 (cm)
- Bongo table lamp with shade
- 60306 Full size mirror (8") black/white

AREA 4 GRAND PRIZE
HONG KONG TRIP FOR 2

- Round Trip ticket for two (2) persons
- 4 days and 3 nights accommodations
- Free airport and hotel transportation
- Breakfast for two and half day tour around the city

MINOR PRIZES

- ERICSSON T29 (openline)
- ERICSSON R310
- NOKIA 3330 (openline)
- NOKIA 3310
- NOKIA 5110i (openline)

AREA 5 GRAND PRIZE
KITCHEN SHOWCASE

- National Ref 50 ID (5 cu ft)
- Samsung 610 WA Microwave
- National SR W81N Rice cooker
- Lagerman Gas stove
- NEC Electric Air pot 4 OL
- Union Blender UGB 991
- Standard Oven toaster SOT 603
- 3D Turbo broiler AX707P
- 3D Coffee Maker TSK 191
- 3D Standard Living Master

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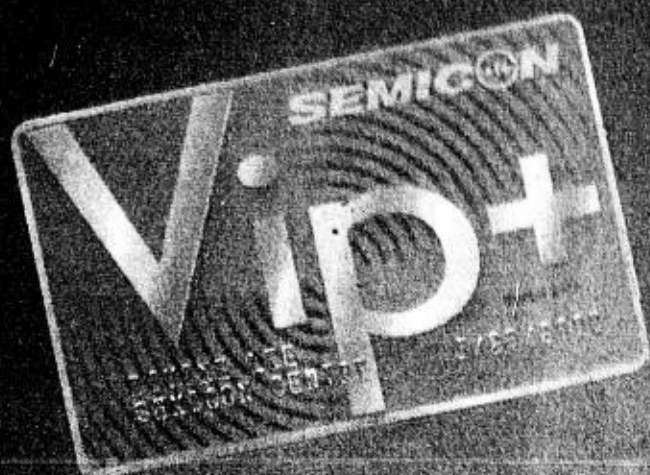
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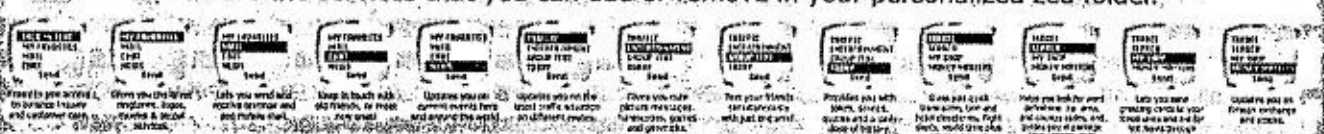
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Get your Talk 'N Text with zed plus SIM now!

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Happy
25th
Anniversary!

SEMICON

YOUR NATIONWIDE TELECOM MARKETING NETWORK

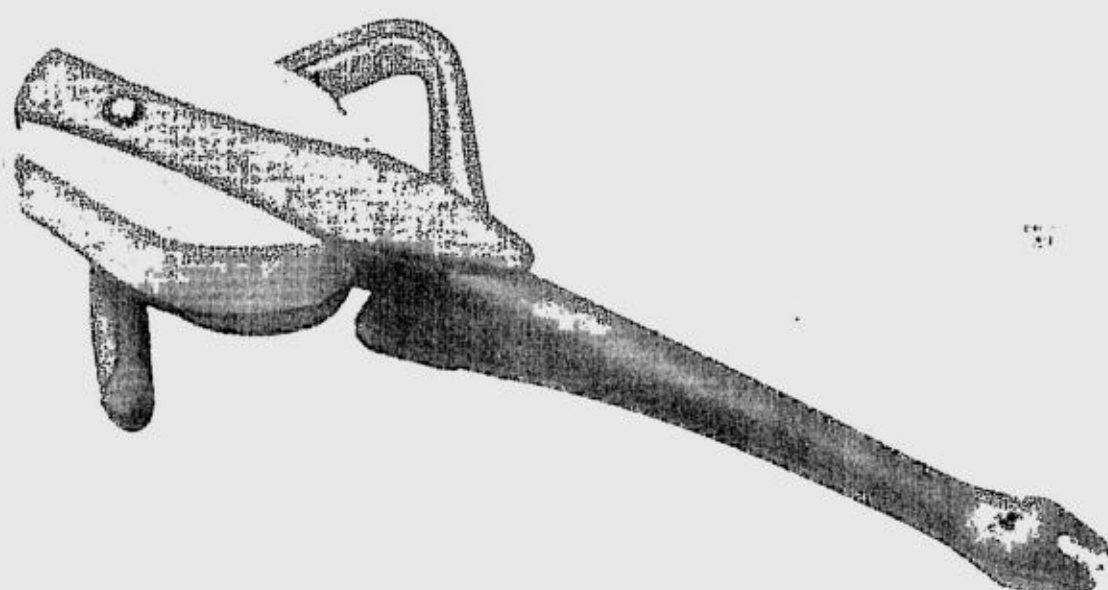
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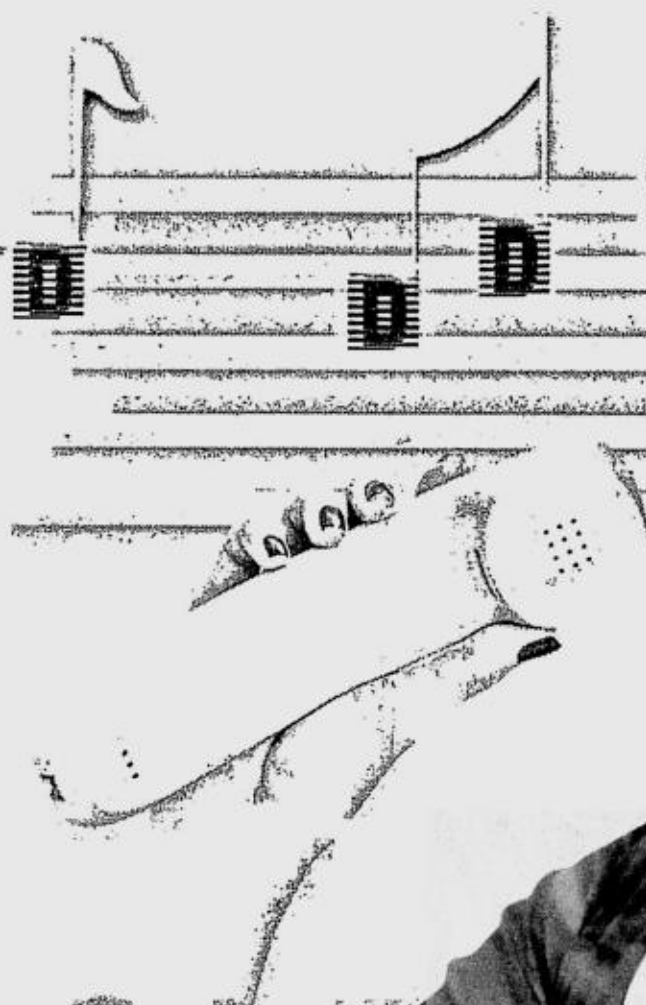
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**Digi
kard**

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on your 25th year anniversary!*

FROM: OFFICERS AND STAFF
OF EQUITABLE SAVINGS BANK
MASINAG, ANTIPOLO BRANCH

SEMICON
YOUR NATIONWIDE TELECOM MARKETING NETWORK

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For all technical inquiries and concerns regarding your cellphone units **JUST DIAL 249-0700 up to 09.** We accept all carriers: Globe or Smart as well as walk-in clients...

Call us we are happy to assist you.



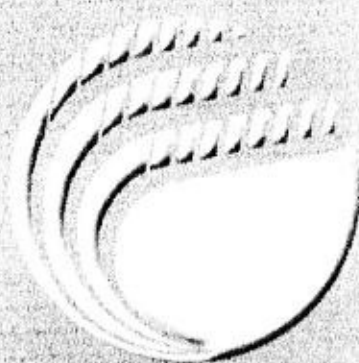
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*for reaching
new heights
on your
25th Silver
Anniversary*

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Bside Mail Novaliches 9612353 Johnny Rolling Hill New Mla L-258 2Stry 4BR 2Car 928-1469 Scout Area w/ old house 405m² 3711807 / 9261542 •SM NORTH Bnew 9263307 Xavieril P7.5M 915-5177	Ghills 600-750-1000sm SEV DBO 723-2391 • Little Bagulo • 300-500sqm • 723-2391 PROVINCIAL ATTENTION Manufacturers & Investors Cavite Light Industrial Park Ready for Construction 2 years to pay w/o Interest Along Maguway Road Carmona, Cavite Tel. # 635-8108 - Jonathan Dasmarias Cavite L-2774 Gd 4 Wse 928-1469 La Residencia Sta. Rosa Nice Subd. P1M • 671-4421 Malinta Bulacan L-7049m² V-LOT Alg H-way 928-1469 Nice Lot 5.3Hec Alfonso Road P700m² 6337601-03 Open House Canyon Woods Invited Tagaytay 928-1469 Tagaytay w/View 5,802m² 2T/mr or Best Offer • 6337601-03 San Jose Villa Sta Rosa Laguna L-151 or 174 928-1469 Sherwood Cavite 345sqm Bld. 11 Lot 3 • 723-2391 S'Plains Canlubang 150sqm Near Ayala South 4500sqm 747-6986 • 0917-9849455 Jome Tagaytay 2Adj Lots 780sqm and 805sqm • 723-2391 Tanza Cavite LOT 5Hec Comm'l Lot 928-1469 ALABANG Condo Aspen Tower 1BR Sale/Rent • 915-5177 CONDO/TOWNHOUSE/APT MAKATI Renaissance 3000 3BR rdy 4 occ 9206694/9251348 MANILA Apt nr UST P9.3M 9126833 MANDALUYONG Condo Pioneer High Lands 3BR Sale/Rent • 915-5177 Low Price Various Condos & Thses • 5346610 Jojo Madison Suites 1BR 2.6M 412-1825 • 0917-7914366 Madison Suites 2BR 4M Md's, Carpark • 412-1825 Var. 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ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
 Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City
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bac_secretariat_afmpmp@hotmail.com

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Armed Forces of the Philippines invites all manufacturers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the **SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF NIGHT VISION GOGGLES (NVG)**, with an approved budget of **Two Hundred Seventeen Million Fifty Six Thousand Pesos (Php 217,056,000.00)** under the AFP Modernization Program.

Only bids from entities which make, develop, fabricate, assemble, build or otherwise produce said equipment shall be entertained.

Bid documents will be available for issuance starting **September 27, 2001** during office hours at the BAC Secretariat, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Capability, Materiel and Technology Development, J9, AFP, 3rd Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City upon payment of **Twenty Thousand Pesos (Php 20,000.00)** which is not refundable. The form of payment will be in cash or cashier's check in favor of the AFP Modernization Act Trust Fund.

A Special Power of Attorney, issued by the prospective bidder authorizing its representative to purchase the bid documents in its behalf, shall be required before issuance of the bid documents.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **October 11, 2001 at 1:00 PM** (local time) at the **Silid Panday Pira, OJ9, 1st Floor Bulwagang Mabini, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City**. Deadline for submission of applications for eligibility statements and the bid envelopes is on **November 05, 2001 at 9:00 AM** (local time) and followed by the Opening of Bids at **10:00 AM** at the **Silid Panday Pira, OJ9, 1st Floor Bulwagang Mabini, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City**.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever for any expenses or losses that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) **GREGORIO M. CAMILING, JR.**
 Lieutenant General AFP
 Chairman, BAC

(PDI - Sept. 26 & 27, 2001)

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OBITUARIES

In Memory

on the Second Death Anniversary of our father

**BALDOMERO V. COLET**

who joined his Creator on
 September 26, 1999

Founder of
BVC INSURANCE AGENCY CORP.
 (formerly B.V. Colet Insurance Agency)

Husband of **Paz Baluyot**; sons **Tito Ives, Baldomero (Bobby) Colet, Jr., Juan Paolo**; grandchildren **Anna Marie and Jonathan** and their families would like to extend their sincerest thanks to all those who continue to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered today at Vicente Madrigal Building, Chapel 5/F, Ayala Avenue, Makati City at 12:00 noon.

We request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

GERARDO "GERRY" S. INTERTAS

"Former Labor Attaché in San Francisco, California 1960-1972"

Died peacefully on September 24, 2001.

His bereaved daughters **Angelina Mendoza, Zeny Francisco, Lourdes Ambrosio, Josie Quiazon, Aurora Penner, Cora Intertas, Julie Principe, Helen Ying**; son **Gerry Jr.**; daughter-in-law **Gloria**; sons-in-law, granddaughters and grandsons and their spouses; grandchildren and great grandchildren request the pious readers to say a prayer to the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be at Chapel of the Chimes at Hayward, California, U.S.A.

"...absent
 with the
 body to be
 present
 with the
 Lord."
 Matthew 10:39

"To You, O Lord, I lift my soul
 O my God, in You I trust."

Our Beloved

Manuel V. Olympia, Jr., M.D. (Ret.)

Peacefully joined our Creator on September 24, 2001 at the age of 88.

His wife **BELING**; children **Noli, Chris, Rose, Millyn and Lillyan**; grandchildren **Bobby, Trisha and Teena; Joe, Chad, Jenny and Kim; Carlo, Mon and Mikey; Joel, Mariel, Marian and Francis; Ember and Em Em**; daughter-in-law **Deedee Dimaculangan**; sons-in-law **Jimmy Lorenzana, Neng Bautista (†), Reynold Inclan, Alben Bartolome and Danny Corpuz** request you to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Vigil will be held at Sta. Maria della Strada Parish, Loyola Heights, Quezon City until Thursday evening, 27 September 2001. His remains will be transferred to the Loyola Memorial Park Viewing Chapel at Marikina on Friday morning, 28 September.

Interment will be after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina on Saturday, September 29, 2001.

HERMINIO BENITEZ ESPERANZA

of Tanauan City and San Esteban, Ilocos Sur

Peacefully joined our Creator on September 23, 2001
 at the age of 75.

His wife **Ely**; son **Eric**; daughter-in-law **Marice**; grandchildren **Anna Francesca, Alexa Erica and Maria Mikaela** request the pious readers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at their residence at 88 Castillo Street, Tanauan City, Batangas.

Interment will be on September 27, 2001 at the Himlayan sa Tanauan, Tanauan City after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at the Tanauan Parish Church.

The family of the late

MARCIA G. MANALO

who died in the Grace of our Lord
 on September 23, 2001 at the age of 41.

Wishes to inform relatives and friends
 that her body lies in state at
 La Funeraria Paz, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday,
 September 29, 2001 at Loyola Memorial Park,
 Marikina City after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at
 Santuario del Santo Cristo
 in San Juan.



An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring... **INQUIRER OBITUARIES**

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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**PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION**

NOTICE TO DEPOSITORS OF THE CLOSED
RURAL BANK OF MALITA (Davao del Sur), INC. (RBMI)

- Starting September 27, 2001, the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) thru its duly authorized representatives shall receive claims for insured deposits maintained with the closed Rural Bank of Malita (Davao del Sur), Inc.
- Depositors are requested to proceed directly to designated payoff sites on dates indicated in the schedule (please refer to table below), Mondays thru Fridays, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM where PDIC representatives are stationed to accept claims and entertain queries of depositors.

RBMI Office/ Branch	Payoff Site	Servicing Dates
Malita, Head Office	RB of Malita, Inc.-Head Office Malita, Davao del Sur	Sept. 27 to Oct. 24, 2001
Padada	RB of Malita, Inc.-Padada Branch Padada, Davao del Sur	Sept. 27 to Oct. 24, 2001
Sulop	RB of Malita, Inc.-Sulop Branch Sulop, Davao del Sur	Sept. 27 to Oct. 18, 2001
Malalag	RB of Malita, Inc.- Malalag Branch Malalag, Davao del Sur	Sept. 27 to Oct. 18, 2001
Sta. Maria	RB of Malita, Inc.-Sta. Maria Branch Sta. Maria, Davao del Sur	Sept. 27 to Oct. 18, 2001

After the said dates, all depositors can file their claims personally or thru mail at the PDIC located at 2228 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City, Mondays thru Fridays, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

- Depositors are advised to present the following requirements to our representatives when filing their claims:

- Original evidence of deposit such as Savings Passbook, Certificate of Time Deposit or latest bank statement and unused check; and
- Latest identification document (ID) bearing the depositor's signature

Other documents may be required by our representatives in the course of their processing of claims filed.

- Pursuant to the provisions of R.A. 3591 as amended by R.A. 7400, the prescriptive date (last day) for filing of claims for insured deposits in the closed Rural Bank of Malita (Davao del Sur) is on **December 31, 2002**. After **December 31, 2002**, PDIC as insurer, shall no longer accept any claim for insured deposits maintained with the said closed bank.

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

(PDIC - Sept. 26 & 27, 2001)



Republic of the Philippines
 Province of Cagayan
 Municipality of Solana

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL MAYOR**INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID**

(Date of Issue: September 17, 2001)

- The Government of the Philippines through the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of Agrarian Reform Communities Project (ARCP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for Rural Infrastructure Components for which this invitation to pre-qualify and to bid is issued.

- The Municipality of **SOLANA, CAGAYAN** as implementing partner of the DAR for ARCP, intends to pre-qualify contractors and if pre-qualified, to bid for the construction and completion of:

CONCRETING OF UBONG BARANGAY ROADS (2.460 km. FTMR)**Minimum Equipments required**

1 unit Road Grader	-	Owned/Leased
1 unit Vibratory Compactor	-	Owned/Leased
1 unit Water Truck	-	Owned/Leased
2 units Concrete Mixer (1 bagger)	-	Owned
1 unit Concrete Screeder	-	Owned
1 unit Bar Cutter	-	Owned

- Pre-qualification Forms (Pre-C) and bidding documents may be purchased by interested eligible bidders at the **MUNICIPAL ENGINEERING OFFICE**, and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P1,500.00)** for each set payable to the Municipal Treasurer. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.

- Submission of application for pre-qualification must be received in sealed envelopes addressed to the **Chairman, PBAC-ARCP, Municipality of Solana, Cagayan** not later than **October 1, 2001**.

- The submission and opening of bids will be on **October 25, 2001 at the Conference Hall Office of the Mayor**. No bids will be accepted later than **2:00 PM of October 25, 2001**. The bids shall be valid for a period of 120 days after bid opening and must be accompanied by a security of **2.5 percent of the Total Bid Price** or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency.

- The PBAC-ARCP reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligations whatsoever to compensate or indemnify to the bidder for any expense or loss that they may incur in the preparation of bid and to accept the bid most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **RODRIGO C. DE ASIS**
 Chairman, PBAC-ARCP

(PDI, Sept. 26 & Oct. 5, 2001)

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PEOPLE at WORK

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ REGINA GALANG REYES, Subsection Editor

'I saw the face of retrenchment drenched in tears'

BY RESTY S. ODO

I CAN'T believe I was able to rise up again to face a new day. I thought I wouldn't make it. Last night, I had a hard time getting myself to sleep because I was seized by a terrible bout of depression. The reason? Yesterday, I saw the face of retrenchment, crumpled, reddened and drenched in tears.

Retrenchment was just a word to me before. But when I saw many of my officemates sobbing quietly as they stepped out in single file from the manager's room, I realized that retrenchment has a face and it is ugly.

How I wished I had filed for a vacation leave. This was one of those times one wishes to never witness.

Losing friends

I wasn't among the ones axed. Tough luck. But what does that matter? Overnight, I lost many relationships. Today, I would be burdened with a double workload. Overnight, everything became mere memories. It didn't matter whether they were good or poignant memories, because each one taught me a thing or two about life.

Our production manager, whose task it was to break the news to the entire staff, aptly likened the event—which she didn't enjoy—to a sudden

death in the family which necessitates the observance of a grieving period by those who are left behind.

But the grim announcement ("You are all fired effective today") came too soon to give ample time for each one to come to grips with reality. The employees who were given their walking papers most probably were wondering what hit them. You see, they were all "regulars," a status which gave them a feel of what it was to have security of tenure.

But now, they would be waking up to a jobless day, feeling rejected, and dejected, no thanks to overseas clients suddenly changing their minds.

'Immigrants'

Alas, there is no such thing as security in a world of globalization, downsizing, cutthroat competition and widespread unemployment. Tomorrow, the skeletal staff that remains will be uprooted and transplanted to a new and cheaper home. Just like that. This must be how immigrants, refugees and asylum-seek-

ers feel like. Disoriented.

Stripped of the melodrama, the retrenchment of a huge chunk of a workforce on such a short notice seems a simple event, a matter of cold economics, but we realize it's not. It has a domino effect, affecting not just the ones whose services were terminated. There are the personal bonds that are unceremoniously severed by an impending physical distance. There are those fellow employees who would be left behind confronting themselves with guilt. (One co-worker asked that she be retrenched as well because all of her friends were gone anyway.) There are those auxiliary business partners who would be adversely affected: the canteen, security guards, maintenance people and the supplier of office materials downstairs.

Cruel world

To workers who are retrenched, these are times when life seems cruel, the world seems like a dog-eat-dog place and God seems non-

existent. For those who are strong enough or try to be and those who believe that "God opens a window when He closes a door," the only sensible attitude is resignation—"That's how it is with life. That's how the cookie crumbles."

They simply roll with the punches; they just go with the flow, with faith as their strongest suit for the moment.

Soon enough, they rise like phoenixes from the ashes. They go on living realizing there's not much choice as long as they are able to keep on breathing. For them, the only logical action left—after going through the requisite time of grieving—is to fight proactively. Exploring other niches. Entrepreneurship. Further studying to fortify one's curriculum vitae. Innovative and creative "sidelines" to while away the time productively. Government safety nets, if any. Social network (friends and *kamag-anak*), if all else fails.

Some forces and circumstances



ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BEAVO

in our workaday world seem to deny our birthright to survive. Supremely ironic. But we survive anyway. A harsh, cold world is not worth wasting our tears of anguish. Instead, we

choose to supply the warmth. (Contributions to "Postcards from the Corporate Edge" may be sent to email address rreyes@inquirer.com.ph.)

What the Internet really means to job seekers

BY JEFF WESTOVER

(This is the last part of the five-part article on "What the Internet means to anyone who wants to stay employed.")

IT has been said: "The Internet is like a jelly fish. You can't step on it. You can't go around it. You just have to get through it." But it cannot be figured out in a day and latecomers will suffer if they do not move expeditiously. Here are some things that job seekers can anticipate and what they must do to stay out in front:

It's all about sales

A magic word in the world of Internet start-ups is "branding"—or the art of establishing an identity in the online space. Companies have spent the better part of five years building their brands online. Amazon.com, AOL, Yahoo—these are all brands that were nothing just a few short years ago.

The next 10 years will see the push for personal branding and the efforts that are necessary to establish an individual online. The worker of 2005 will be an entrepreneur that manages his career just like a business. There will be constant emphasis on things like marketing, profit margins, customer base and, of course, earnings.

Will we see a private individual eventually going public with this strategy? Ever hear of Martha Stewart.com?

Personal dot com

The rush has already begun on personal web pages. According to NPD Online Research, only a quarter of all Internet users had web pages in 1999. But they project that a full 50 percent of all users will have a personal page by spring 2000.

Why? NPD says it is because Internet users want to learn. The study finds that while these personal sites do not yet have a pro-

fessional focus, the ultimate goal of over 60 percent of users with personal web pages is to be able to connect with others online.

Whether you call it a homepage, a personal storefront, a websumme or even a virtual foxhole—job seekers are digging in for the long haul on the Internet. Those who do not establish an online presence with links to the outside work world will find themselves mighty lonely—and looking for work will be more difficult for them as a result.

More competition

Monster.com, a popular Internet job board, proudly boasts nearly 1.5 million resumes online. The resumes posted there outnumber the jobs by 5 to 1. Sure, the Internet gives the job seeker broader markets to in which to sell their skills. And yes, telecommuting and the blossoming trend of elancing have improved opportunities. But clearly job seekers have flocked online much faster than jobs.

Those who understand how to find jobs online—through connecting with people and referrals—will get the jobs. The masses of job seekers that respond to postings on Internet job boards and blindly post resumes hither-and-yon will languish.

Faster hiring

The Internet has improved many processes for business—including the hiring process. A recent survey by Accountants, Inc.—a staffing company in the financial industry—shows that 48 percent of companies in that industry are filling positions in less than two weeks. That is almost twice as fast as it was just three years ago.

Job seekers are going to need to be equipped online to respond quickly. The use of online connecting tools such as personal web sites, communication and presentation

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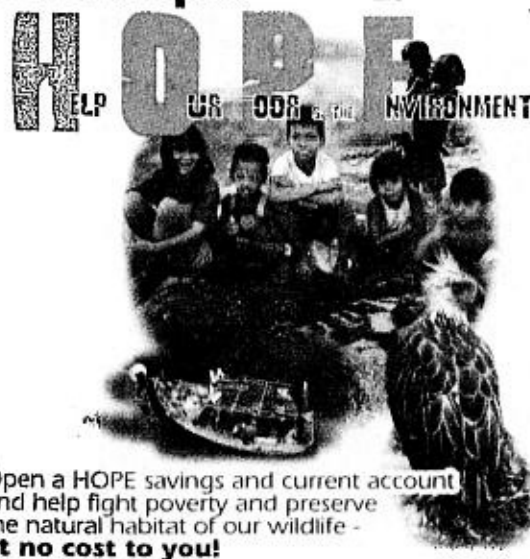


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LIFESTYLE

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CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor
PAM PASTOR, Chief of Correspondents



'Halo-halo' special

From the Webbies to 'The Princess Diaries,' from Studio 23's new shows to soul singer Brian McKnight's Manila gig, 2bU! brings you a mish-mash of articles that define the moment



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HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

TELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Mary Beth Hurt, Olivia Newton-John, Linda Hamilton, Lynn Anderson, Kent McCord, Melissa Sue Anderson
Happy Birthday: If you control your emotions it will be smooth sailing this year. Take a disciplined approach toward decisions and finish what you start. Do for yourself first. Offer to take on extra jobs only if you have plenty of time to do them. Stick to a good diet and avoid putting on unwanted pounds. Your numbers: 6, 19, 23, 27, 32, 38

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Opportunities to upgrade your standard of living will come through connections you make at serious talks or conferences. Make sure that you read between the lines when signing contracts.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You may have too many choices, but that's OK as long as you don't try to do everything. You will be in a talkative frame of mind, which can lead to some stimulating conversations.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't leave any document unturned when it comes to financial matters. You stand to make money if you are on top of your game. Be prudent, but don't be afraid to invest in a potential moneymaker.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Take part in stimulating debates that will allow you to show off your intelligence. Give seminars that will be informative and innovative to those searching for a new angle.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You will attract attention if you get out socially. Don't be afraid to have fun, but draw the line if someone is trying to fast-talk his way into your heart. He will wait until you are ready if he is truly interested.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Your working relationship with colleagues will improve if you exercise patience and understand their feelings and dilemmas. Your ability to relate will bring the allies you need for future work-related changes.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Disharmony will result in lowered vitality. Your system can't take the heat right now. You will feel much better by focusing on your interests. Spend time with friends rather than with family.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You need to catch up on all that correspondence you've left sitting on your desk. Make those phone calls and pay your bills. You'll feel much better when the slate is clean again.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Financial opportunities will increase your bank account. Money that you don't necessarily work for may play a role. You may find that someone you love is trying to put restrictions on you. Handle this situation carefully.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Make love not war. You will get along well with your partner or overreact to everything he or she says. The choice is yours, so take a deep breath and focus on being sensual and loving.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Your words will be taken out of context if you're evasive with co-workers or employers. Make perfectly clear what you think your duties are. If there is a discrepancy, sort it out quickly.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You will do better at social functions than at serious functions. You might get roped into things that you really don't have time for. You should be enjoying yourself, not working yourself to death.

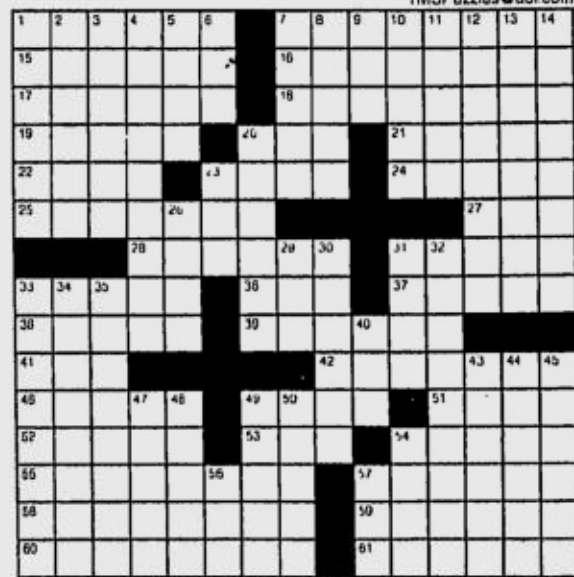
Birthday Baby: You have a set mind and a clear vision of what you want. You know instinctively when to make your move. Your overreaction to opposition means you often get your way.

DAILY CROSSWORD

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28 Parcels out
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36 Alternative to ready?
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32 With joy
33 More insolent
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35 Discourteous
40 Pole with a blade
43 Substitute
44 Bearlike
45 Rental agreements
47 Like Cheerios
48 Baleen whale food
49 Web locations
50 Wave top
54 Louise of "Gilligan's Island"
56 Muhammad
57 Holy cow!



By Joaloh Broward
Scranton, PA

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER



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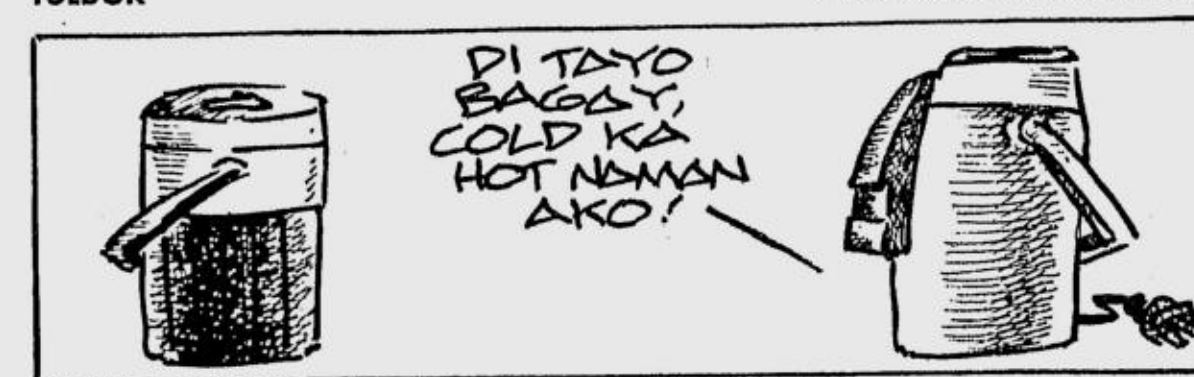
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO



TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING



New TV shows get the lowdown

BY PAM PASTOR

LAST week, a mysterious package came in the 2bU! mail—an envelope containing two VHS tapes. Upon close inspection, we found out that these were episodes of Studio 23's newest shows—and some of them hadn't even been aired yet.

We decided to let "experts" give their verdict on the new shows. We combed the city for certified couch potatoes and found four—16-year-old Powie, 17-year-old Felice, 15-year-old Kat-kat and 21-year-old Chrissie. On top of their list are the hit shows "Friends" and "Sex and the City." One Sunday night, we settled into the living room, armed with tons of chips and other goodies, and made them watch the shows. Let's see how the new shows fare against their favorites.

'Scariest Places on Earth'

Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m.

While our panel might love television, they were not exactly big fans of horror shows. So they weren't exactly keen on watching "Scariest Places on Earth" (the understatement of the year). We braced ourselves for a big scare, but the show wasn't really horrifying. Hosted by Linda Blair of "The Exorcist" fame, the show featured scary places all over the world and a few brave souls who tried to survive the horrors of these ghost-infested areas. Contrary to what was expected and to the "may be too intense" warning in the beginning, the show featured less action and more talk. The show had a documentary feel—although some scenes seemed less than real. "Parang scripted," Felice said. "Yung voice 'yung scary, eh." There weren't any of the usual ghosts and blood and gore—instead, this show played with your imagination. Watch this show closely and try to avoid blinking. You might miss a few creepy details.

The verdict: Scaredy cats need not stay away. Our panel did not freak out. "If I were alone when I watched this, I probably would have gotten scared," Felice said. But since she wasn't, the group had a fun, goosebump-free time. If you liked "The Blair Witch Project," you'd enjoy this one.

'Dark Angel'

Mondays, 8 p.m.

Here's another chick out to fill Lara Croft's boots. Jessica Alba, of "Never Been Kissed," stars as Max, a genetically enhanced human prototype hiding in Seattle after escaping from her military prison. The setting is 2019 and Max is looking for her "siblings" and hiding from people who are hunting her down. The plot of James Cameron's new baby is interesting. Max's character, although Xena and the others beat her to the race, is a welcome break from your typical damsel in distress protagonist. The panel started talking about the show's main characters. Seems that they do not fit your typical god and goddess prototype. "Parang they're not as good-looking as you'd expect them to be," Kat-kat said. Alba looks like a normal girl—the others do not stand out too much either. This can be a plus. Viewers can relate more to characters that appear vulnerable and do not look like Ken and Barbie dolls. And instead of focusing on the characters' gorgeous hair or unbelievably blue eyes, the audience can actually absorb the story.

The verdict: Girls would love Max's attitude, guys would love Max, period.

'The Others'

Tuesdays, 8:30 p.m.

Marian Kitt, played by Julia Nicholson, is a college student who has just discovered that she has supernatural powers. The first episode features Marian's encounters with a ghost in her dorm room. This encounter leads her to a group of outcasts who, like her, have supernatural abilities. "The bathtub scene reminds me of 'What Lies Beneath,'" Chrissie said. This thriller, which is produced by Dreamworks, shows a lot of promise.

The verdict: If you liked "The Sixth Sense," "The Others" might just be the show for you.

'Temptation Island'

Sundays, 9:30 p.m.

Admittedly, while watching the other shows, there were sudden bursts of conversation that distracted the group from watching. But when it was time for "Temptation Island," everyone was quiet, all eyes riveted to the screen. "Temptation Island" takes reality TV to another level. This might just outdo the success of "Survivor." Four couples who are about to get married put their relationships to a major test. They are brought to an island and separated from their beaus. The

2bU! invades the living room of four couch potatoes and lets them give their verdict on Studio 23's newest TV shows

guys stay on one side and the girls stay on the other—but are allowed to mingle with eligible males and females for two weeks. Each person is allowed to go on four dates with any of the single persons he or she chooses. The girls and the guys are allowed to block the one person that makes them the most nervous from dating their partners. Unfortunately, the block only works during official dates. The rest of the time, the participants can interact with whomever they want. Yes, the couples have a lot of reasons to be worried. Among the single people are Playboy models, beauty contest winners, lawyers, ad executives and that drool-worthy, dreadlocked singer-poet whose name I forget. The singles are gorgeous and successful—we will most probably be seeing a lot of people succumbing to temptation. Episode 1 was already rife with drama, with one couple fighting right before they were separated. This show is interesting to say the least. I'm sure people will be reserving Sunday nights to see this. Watch out for the show's premiere on Sept. 30.

The verdict: Everyone groaned when the credits rolled. It was one show we didn't want to end. Everyone started chattering excitedly after.



THE BRAVE couples of "Temptation Island." Let's see who will still be together at the end of the season.

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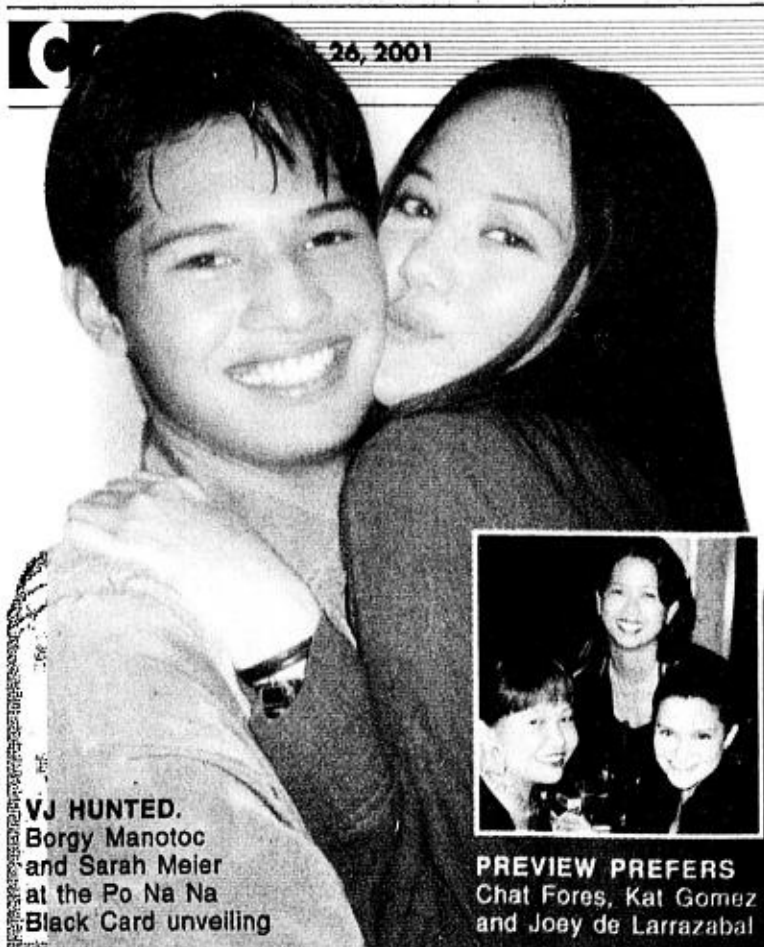
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"DARK ANGEL." Jessica Alba is ready to kick bad-guy butt.

26, 2001



VJ HUNTED.
Borgy Manotoc
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at the Po Na Na
Black Card unveiling



PREVIEW PREFERS
Chat Fores, Kat Gomez
and Joey de Larrazabal



AT PONANA.
Marvin Agustin with
date Josephine Yao



**BLACK CARD IN
OUR HEARTS.** Lisa
Chan and TJ Parpan



NIGHT LIVES.
Louie Ysmael and
Butch Peña



EBISU EPISODE.
DJ Paolo Abaya
and Anton Palanca

Keeping it tight

THE BATTLE has shifted to Thursdays. The once-quiet weeknight (of maybe five years ago) now has numerous parties, events and launchings taking place all at the same time, competing for the same people from the same places. Weekends are deemed to be for "mass consumption," that's the observation drawn from the packed crowds that fill the city's nightspots.

You know how it goes. A place starts out with a core of good people, then word gets around of its "hip-ness," and the hangout gets packed—too packed. The owners accommodate everyone and other people get turned off. "What's happened to the crowd?" partyphiles with



Tim
Yap



THE WORLD is a... mirror ball, says Des
of Hotlegs at Po Na Na

stiff upper lips would often ask upon seeing the "evolution" of certain hotspots. Sometimes the life expectancy of a hip spot can rival that of a Fendi bag.

To counter this, establishments should be able to control their crowd, making sure that as they welcome other revelers, their main targets won't be neglected. Theme nights, exclusive bashes and memberships are some of the ways owners can retain their niche.

Sterling samples are Flute with its "Cex & the City" Tuesday screenings, Wherelse with its "Oasis" chill series, and Ebisu (that small Jupiter hip spot that just had an exclusive martini night some weeks back) with its Arctic nights on Saturday.

Black is back

A few Thursdays ago, Po Na Na, that shining star of a party place in the Libis strip, launched the "Black Card," its exclusive club membership which gives us partyphiles benefits, from discounts to express lane (as we know, the lines on weekends get verry loong) and party privileges.

From Po Na Na's much talked-about "White Night" grand opening party (imitated, but never equaled), the launch of this five-grand-worth plastic card had a "beguiling black and wicked white" theme to it. Nocturnal scenesters, sassy celebrities and fabulous fashionistas all showed up in the color of the season to get a first crack at the card, not to mention drink and dance up a storm in the bar's eclectic halls.

I spotted two girls wearing exactly the same dress (bought from the same store where all girls go), but instead of leaving, both stayed, what with the overflowing eye candy that night. That is the beauty of Po Na Na—unpretentious in its fun and plenty of surprises (eye contact is key) on any given night. "I like the music here, it's not too unreachably electronic, I can dance to it," said style setter Kitty Go one night we visited the venue.

Unveiling the Po Na Na black card was a mix of it boys and gals from fashion and the glitz biz—Borgy Manotoc, Sarah Meier, Rissa Samson, Hans Montenegro, Miriam Quiambao, Ruffa Gutierrez and yours truly. The Hotlegs spiced up the night with quick steps atop the bar while a funky mime artist table-hopped to the delight of guests that delicious night. "This is life!" as the Po Na Na owners love to say.

DJ for a night

Last Thursday, the hands-down winner was the "Anything Goes" night at 78 Orange, where four never-before-DJs suddenly took turns on the table to play their favorite music. "There are no rules, the only criterion is to play what you love," said top DJ and part owner Anthony Kierulf.

And play they did. Jim Fuentebella, Bleds Fores, Itong Torres and Togee Evangelista rolled up their sleeves and went to work on the dance floor. (Others "deejay-virginized" were Rhett Eala, Bianca Araneta and Paolo Prieto). From '80s hits to vintage house tunes, the crowd that night—composed of non-Orange regulars (like supermodel-turned-editor Tweety de Leon-Gonzales, designer Patrice Ramos, TV personality Angel Jacob and more) all grooved on the dance floor with huge smiles on their faces.

While some of the new DJs were very serious, others were quite animated, knowing how to play up to the crowd. When an occasional audio glitch occurred, you saw the tension in their eyes. And when their audience showed appreciation, they would flash euphoric smiles, do the "I am a DJ" thump, and grin with matching "point-point."

Whatever I say won't give justice to the relaxed yet festive party vibe that night. Why don't you just check it out? Or, better yet experience the thrills of playing god for a night—be a DJ.

This week's hottest

Tonight, let's all raise a glass to Mr. Jack as he celebrates his birthday! Yup, that's Jack Daniel, the first guy to hold the distinction of "Old Number 7." His natal day shebang happens at the RCBC Plaza lobby, where overflowing whisky—hic!—and games galore (of the Vegas casino kind, mind you) await partyphiles. Not to be missed.

Then, Friday all roads lead to the NBC Tent at the Fort, where designer Rajo Laurel holds his much-awaited fashion gala.

Next Friday, Oct. 5, marks the beginning of San Miguel beer month—Oktoberfest! The grand kick-off

KEEPING/p.66



GOING SHA-NA-NA.
Po Na Na owners Noel
and Lizette Isip



JUST DO IT. Colo
Ventosa of Nike
and Carlo Blanco

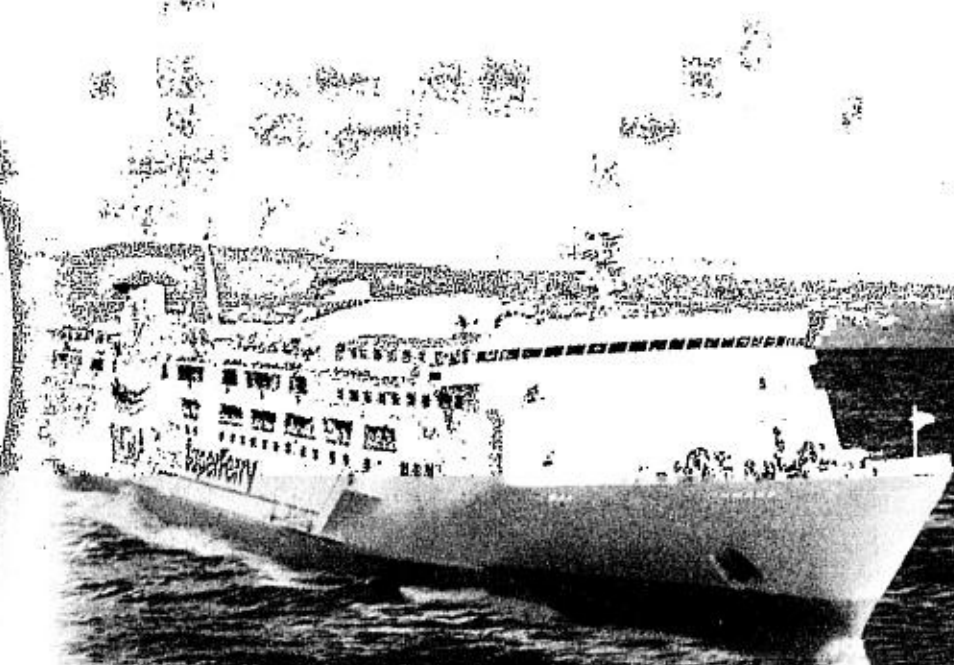


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PHOTOS BY TIM YAP

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Ang galing na team.

Free-for-all fashion beams with colors

TEENAGE fashion house Freeway is bringing in the all-time girl theme "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun" into the more modern "What a Girl Wants."

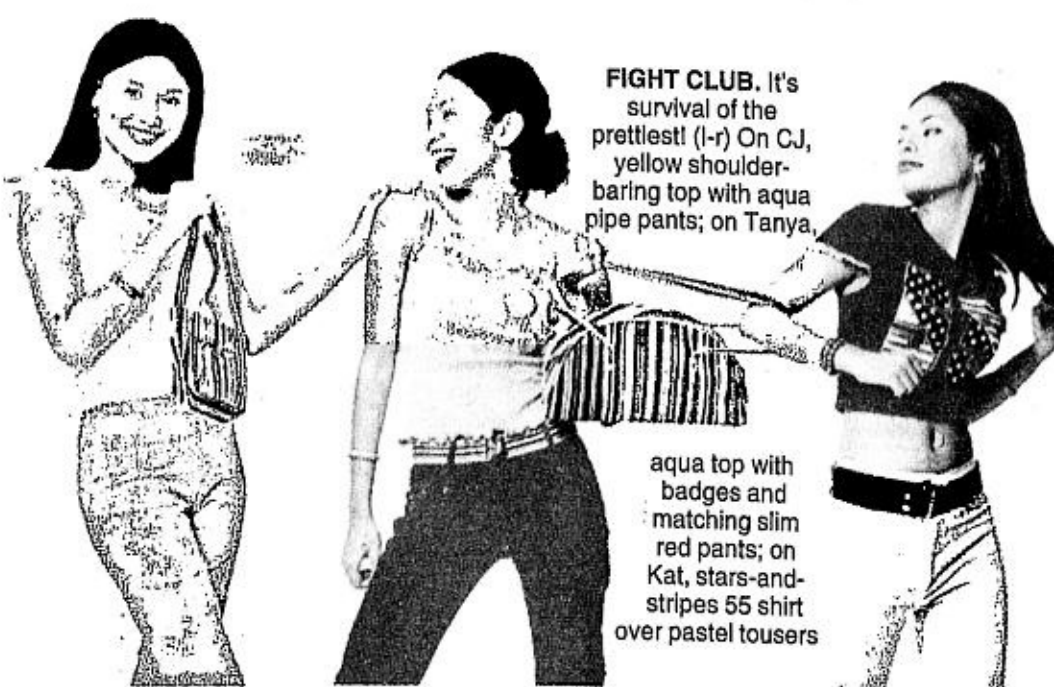
Sheree RC Gotuaco jump-started Freeway as an alternative sister to the classy and thoroughly chic fashion line Ensembles. With more dash than cash, Freeway produces affordable casual separates that come in the most up-to-date designs. It has also expanded its assortment with its show-stopping formal and evening wear—Chic Flick Accessory line, Dive Diva Swimwear line, Footwear by Akita and, just recently, Luna Sleepwear line.

Beaming with colors, flashing with eyelets and peeping bare skin, girls have finally found a way to have fun. The perfect entree to the '80s double-edged rebel style is the funky tee. Worn cropped, slashed or sleeveless, in graffiti, pop art or Uncle Sam's print, it's cool enough to go from school time to gimmick hours.

Denim cool today means bootlegs, hot pants or miniskirt. A skinny, low-slung hipster is the unanimous choice for the boys, too.

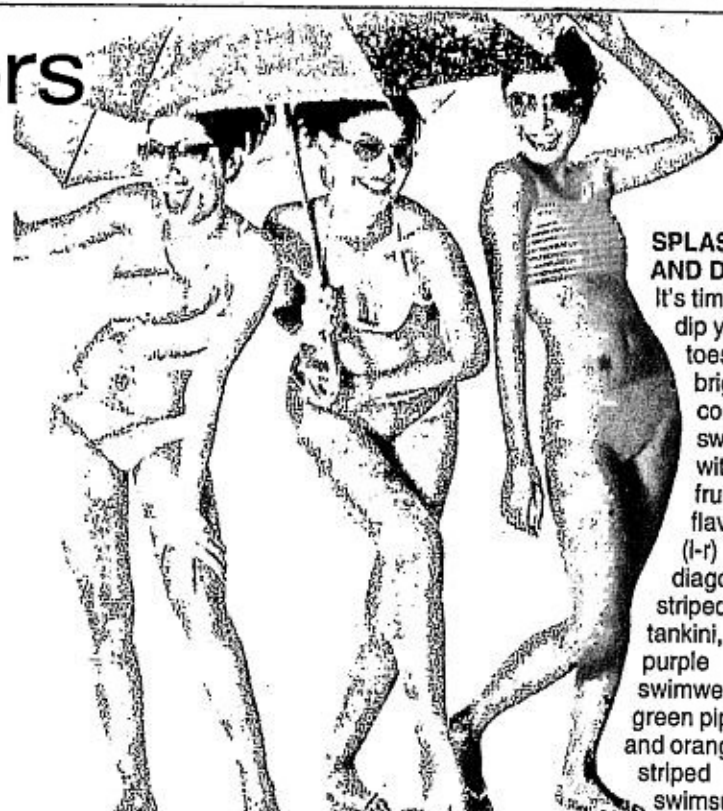
A multicolored shirt matched with dark denims is a true-blue choice. But for a day out with friends, there's feminine glory by pairing brightly hued tops (red, yellow, orange, blue or green) with pastel cotton trousers (white, powder blue, lilac or pink).

Freeway shops are located at Glorietta 1, Ayala Center; L/G SM North Edsa; G/F SM Southmall; 2/F SM Sucat; G/F Robinsons Place Manila; 3/L Robinsons Galleria; 2/L Festival Supermall Alabang.



FIGHT CLUB. It's survival of the prettiest! (l-r) On CJ, yellow shoulder-baring top with aqua pipe pants; on Tanya,

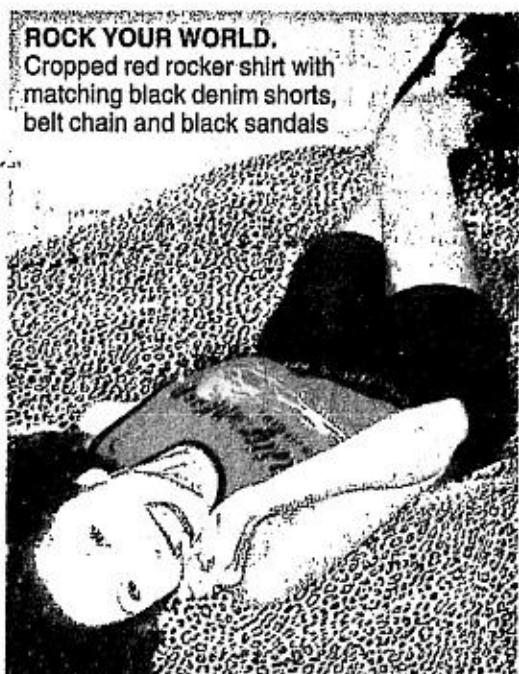
aqua top with badges and matching slim red pants; on Kat, stars-and-stripes 55 shirt over pastel trowsers



SPLASH AND DASH. It's time to dip your toes into bright-colored swimsuits with fruity flavors. (l-r) diagonally striped tankini, purple swimwear with green piping and orange-striped swimsuit



POWER POP(CORN) GIRLS. See-through top with matching low-slung denim shorts, studded belt and black boots; black mesh top with butterfly accent paired with denim bootleg pants and sling-back strappy shoes



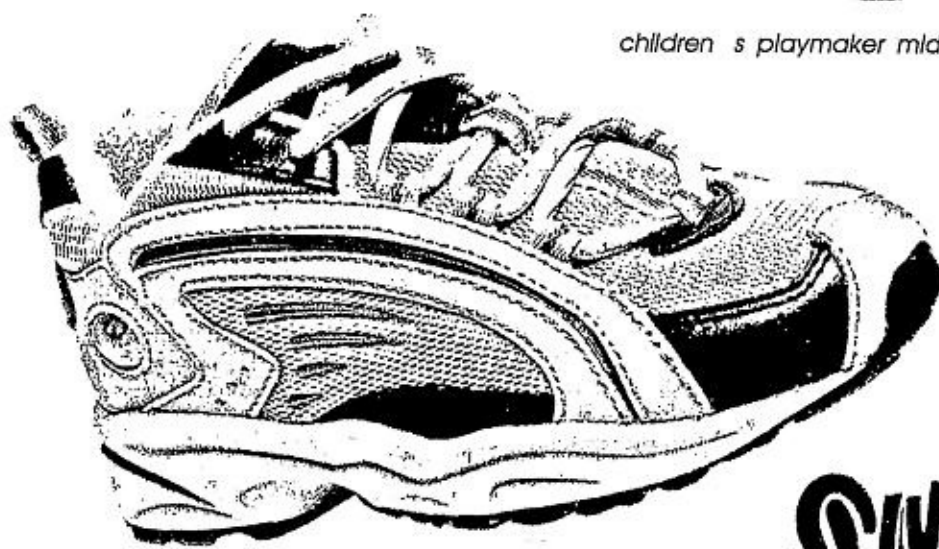
ROCK YOUR WORLD. Cropped red rocker shirt with matching black denim shorts, belt chain and black sandals

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Keeping it tight

(From page C4)

party at the Eastwood City Walk starts from lunch till early morning—dubbed as "SMB Oktoberfest Chowtime Showtime Caravan." Expect this to be the biggest

gathering of bands, food, and of course, beer! This event happens nationwide, with simultaneous parties in Cebu, Iloilo and Davao. For more info, check out www.smb-oktoberfest.pinoycentral.com. Well, cheers to that. Hic.



"THIS IS LIFE!" Po Na Na girls Nikka and Melissa with Russel Simon



AT EBISU were Eric Martel, Jayvee de Venecla and Sonny Angara



HUDDLE, huddle with Ruffa Gutierrez, George Sandico and Jack de Mesa at Po Na Na

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With all these healthy benefits bunched up with each hearty serving of California Grapes, you can afford to give in to your cravings and still be in good shape! Go ahead and indulge on the sweet taste of California Grapes—whether dished up as an ingredient in your favorite recipes or conveniently eaten as a snack.

So give in to your sweet cravings! Treat yourself and your family with deliciously nutritious California Grapes—the sweet, healthy snack that's really good for you!

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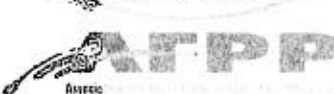
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Why does pregnancy turn off most guys?

DEAR Sep and Caloy,

I just had an abortion and when I told the baby's father about my pregnancy, he said he couldn't deal with having a family yet and left me. I'm still in college so I really couldn't afford to have a baby now, that's why I had the pregnancy terminated. When my ex-boyfriend learned about it, he started calling me up, like he was trying to reconcile with me. I'm just confused about the whole thing.

What is it with pregnancy that turns off guys? Or at least, my ex-boyfriend. Do you think I should get back with him? I'm really confused, so please give me some helpful advice. I know I committed a mistake so you don't have to tell me that.

Thanks.

MIA

It's a good thing you know where

you went wrong so I am hoping that you have learned your lesson. Abortion is a traumatic experience, from what I've heard, so it should at least put you off sex for a while. And the next time you have sexual intercourse, demand that the guy use some protection. Better yet, take the initiative and use birth control pills, whether or not you'll be having sex again at any time soon.

On your question about guys, I don't really know why some of them just ditch the girl as soon as she gets pregnant. Most probably it's because they're immature and insensitive, like your ex. I think with this guy, you have to take your time before deciding to get back with him. If he ditched you when you needed him, who knows when he will ditch you again, and for what reason? If you truly love him, though, I can't stop you from wanting to be with



Carlos Garchitorea & September Mahino

him again. I can only tell you to be cautious.

SEP

Sincerely, Mia, I've always wondered how it would be to have a child of my own, and how I'd cope with it as a single parent. It's quite inconceivable, I know, no pun intended. With the technology that will be available in the coming years,

though, I wouldn't be surprised if men would be empowered to have a baby without a female partner, which is good since I've been hearing too many a rumor that guys will soon be outdated and obsolete as life support for sperm. In an increasingly complex society where raw, man-intelligence is losing ground to EQ (a woman's creation, for sure), guys' exclusive purpose is limited to large, booming voices and some other mindless, manual labor, like fixing cars and totaling them. According to "Don't Read This, A Chronicle on Conspiracy and Paranoia," it will be a matter of time before A.I. will accompany every CRV or Accord to make sure that women don't have to dirty their fingernails, ever.

Booming voices? Everyone in high-school army training knows that tyranny is not exclusive to men. I recently bumped into one of the

"officers" of our cadet corps training, and had to guiltily recall the hell I put her through, being a smart-mouthed, angst senior. If all men disappeared tomorrow, who would take up "world leadership" in America's self-righteous "crusade against terrorism" and acts against citizens, domestic and foreign? Bin Laden wouldn't go away, since he's just a girl in a fake beard.

But back to your problem: You can't afford to have a baby right now? The planet can't afford for you to have a baby! The world is so crammed with suffering and pain, and although vegetarianism on earth is said to have the power to feed 60 billion, there is, as Bob would wail, "so much trouble in the world." Where do we start? For one, I wouldn't mind stuffing bigheaded personalities like corrupt city mayors and their ilk into a giant microwave oven

permanently set to "Hell." I know three typically obsolete, insecure boys that have crossed my life-path that I would love to crush beneath my heel like the terroristic insects that they are. That reminds me of a senator everyone loves to hate. Throw her in, too.

But back to your problem: The last thing you could do in an unwanted pregnancy would be to demand that the father take responsibility. Guys today can hardly take care of themselves. A convenient marriage can be the first doomed step in a couple's partnership. Well, there's nothing wrong with committing a mistake unless you make it twice. Let me get into the Bible. Proverbs: He who commits a mistake twice is like a dog going back to its own vomit. I'd hate to call you a dog, but at least you're not vomit.

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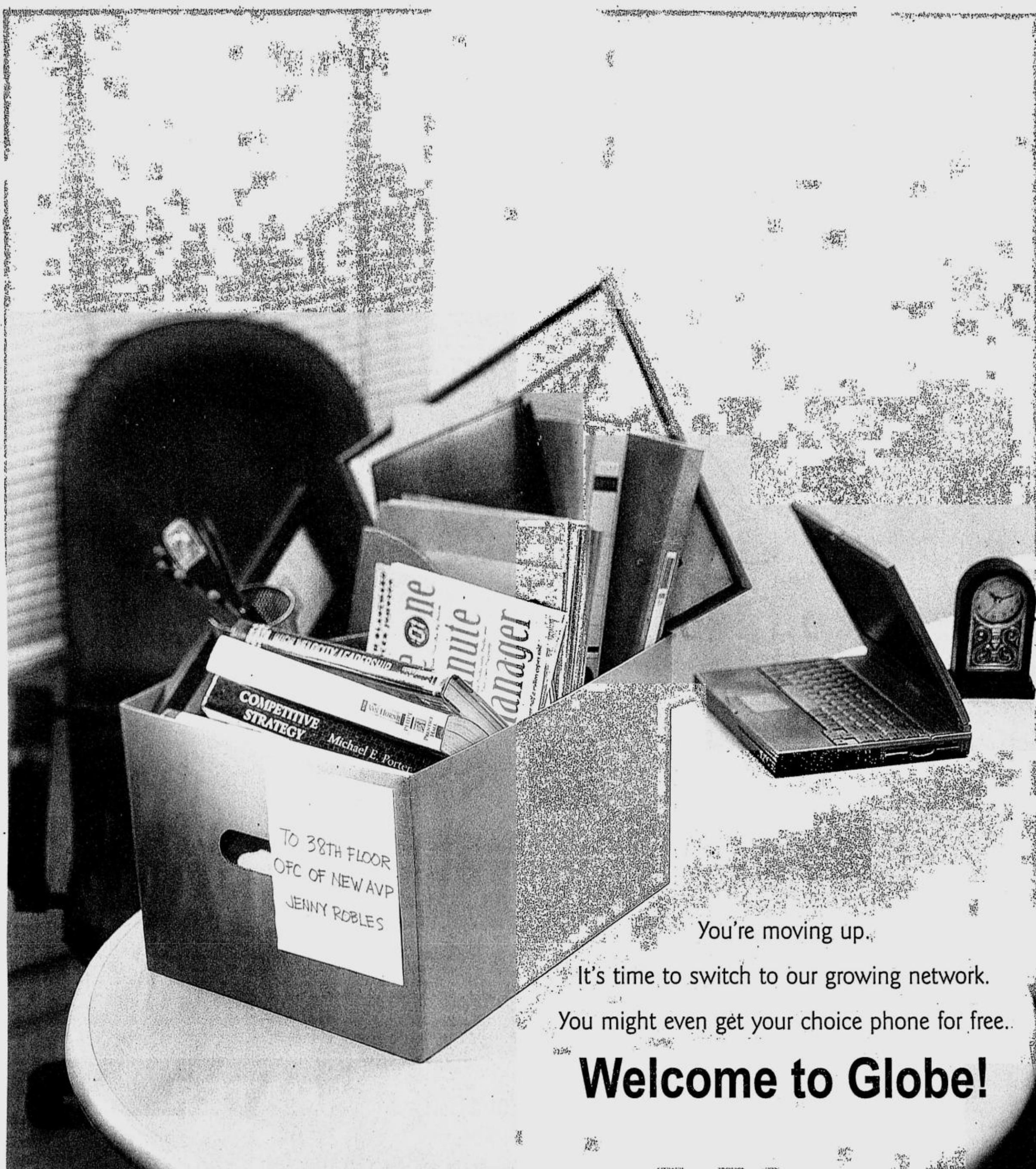
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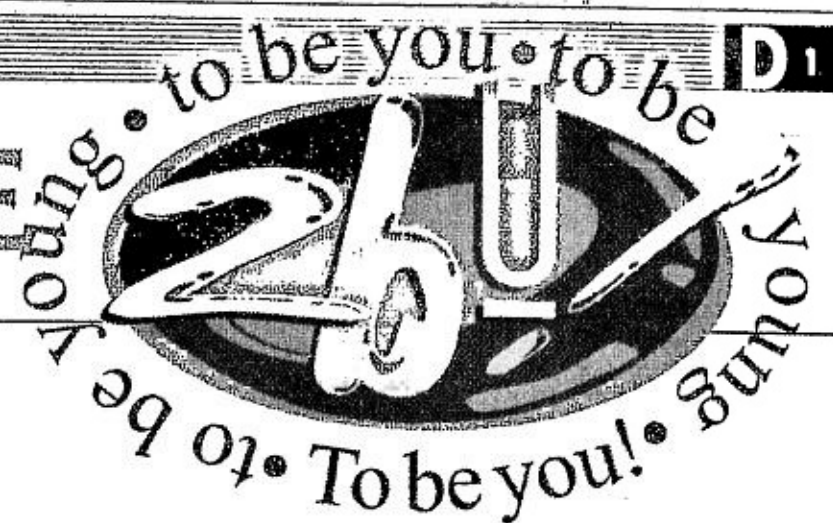
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Webbies and winners



(From page D1)

Fonty's" where it says, "Despite disagreements, no one objected when this year's show closed with the presentation of a Lifetime Achievement Award to Times New Roman, a proportionally spaced typeface designed in 1931 for The London Times." Uh-huh.

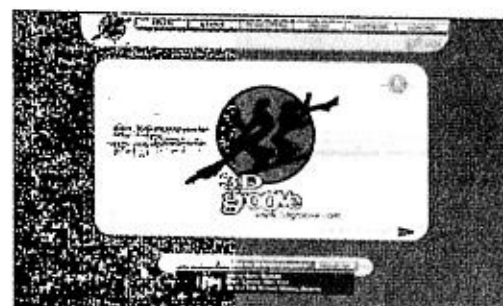
Fun

Dancingpaul.com is definitely fun. It has improved since I last saw it. Basically Paul the owner is strutting around the way you choose to music you like. You can even have a backdrop of Washington, D.C., the Taj Mahal, Florida or a giant Buddha statue, and even have some guys or what look like his pals doing backup. It is deliciously ridiculous.

I was glad to see an old favorite, Livejournal.com (People's Choice for Services and Personal). It has justifiably won twice. The site experiences reliability problems, though, so I hope the award shapes it up.

Fool.com is a play on the popular saying, "A fool and his money..." The site has been the

The year's Webby victors show there is still life in the Net after the bubble-burst



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Yan ang galing... without overspending!

most popular source of finance and investment information for quite some time now. It should probably win an award for "best use of a cool domain name" as well.

Espn.go.com, which won the sports award, is the guy's go-to site for sports of all kinds everywhere. It has good articles and opinions. The time I spent here: 1.5 hours. It's my homepage, especially with His Airness' comeback on the horizon.

The big guys are here as well, with Yahoo for its Financevision.yahoo.com (People's Choice for Broadband), Google.com (Best Practices), Nationalgeographic.com (Education) and Microsoft.com with its Windowsupdate.microsoft.com (Technical Achievement), which really is an amazing piece of work, with its ability to fix up your Windows PC. It's nice to see they're in the minority, though, as most of the sites obviously don't have all that corporate dollars to fall back on.

Strange

Pixyland.org/peterpan, hasn't changed for months, yet it drives thousands of hits due to its sheer strangeness. Whatever you might think of the guy who made it, it stands as a symbol of how everything on the Net is equal—that a site doesn't need megabucks to get attention.

Sputnik7.com (Music) has the best Flash I've seen in a long time. It has immense attention to details. Notice how even the button sounds shift from speaker to speaker. Do-not-zzz.com (Spirituality) is entertaining and funny.

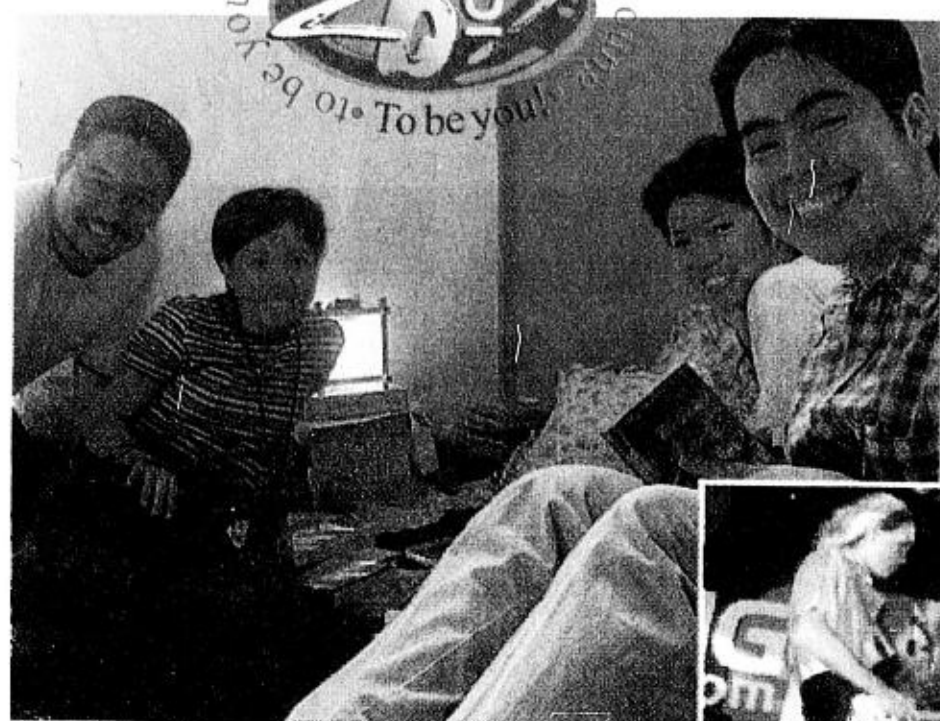
Factmonster.com is as cute as ever, while Theknot.com is impressive for following through its theme. In CafePress.com, artists can set up shop and sell their works.

A lot of people think the Net is dead, with layoffs and closures all around. But I believe that we are just now getting used to it and have done away with the dangerous hype that accompanied its boom two years back. If anything, the winners of this year's Webbies are here to show that the Net is a democratic tool that is here to stay. These sites are focused, distinct in purpose and clear in their individual messages. They also load fast, are easy to understand and easy on the eyes. What they offer is quick, vital delivery of pertinent and timely information, sans the confusing smoke and mirrors that most sites throw at you.





PEXERS strut their stuff in the fashion show.



BOOKWORMS. The Pex book club



THE PEX Dance Club



MAKILING



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL PALACIOS

Popular message board site turns 2

BY CHRISTIAN B. BAUTISTA

2bU! Correspondent; University of Santo Tomas

JAY Alviar, Brownbeat All-Stars drummer and Pinoyexchange.com member, best expressed everyone's wish: "I hope we get to come back next year."

He joined fellow Netizens of the country's most popular message board site, who all shared his sentiment in celebrating Pinoyexchange's second anniversary at the Ayala Triangle's Tower One on Sept. 15.

The event, which was greatly anticipated by local techies who still remembered last year's successful first anniversary bash, was impressive. Featuring performances by the Makiling Ensemble, Chocolate Beef, Session Road, Brownbeat All Stars and fast-rising upstart Imago, the festivities kept going well into the wee hours. Lots of prizes were given away, including a Palm m100. Partygoers were treated to free food and drinks provided by Sprite, Taters, Cinnabon and San Miguel Beer.

The party kicked off early with an afternoon show. Bands with Pinoyexchange members like Mr. Jil, Hiraya, Invocan and Happy Meals joined the Pinoyexchange Dance Club in entertaining the early crowd. Studio 23 VJ Trisha Chiongbin and TJ Manotoc hosted the shindig.

Registered members of Pinoyexchange, who fondly call themselves PeXers, got a chance to meet some of the people they chat and argue with on the website's sometimes-acerbic forums for an intriguing eyeball-to-eyeball meeting. With members sporting nametags, interesting impromptu encounters occurred.

Highlight of the affair was the much-anticipated fashion show sponsored by Sari Sari. Selected PeXers strutted their stuff on the catwalk wearing the season's trendiest duds. Living up to its promise

of not being a typical fashion parade, Pinoy exchange's models put on a quirky show that had the crowd in a frenzy.

A booth-decorating contest was organized by official PeX clubs. The PeX Outdoor Club got the best booth prize.

Pinoyexchange's second anniversary party was presented by MyGlobe, JobsDB, FWD Magazine and Odyssey Records.

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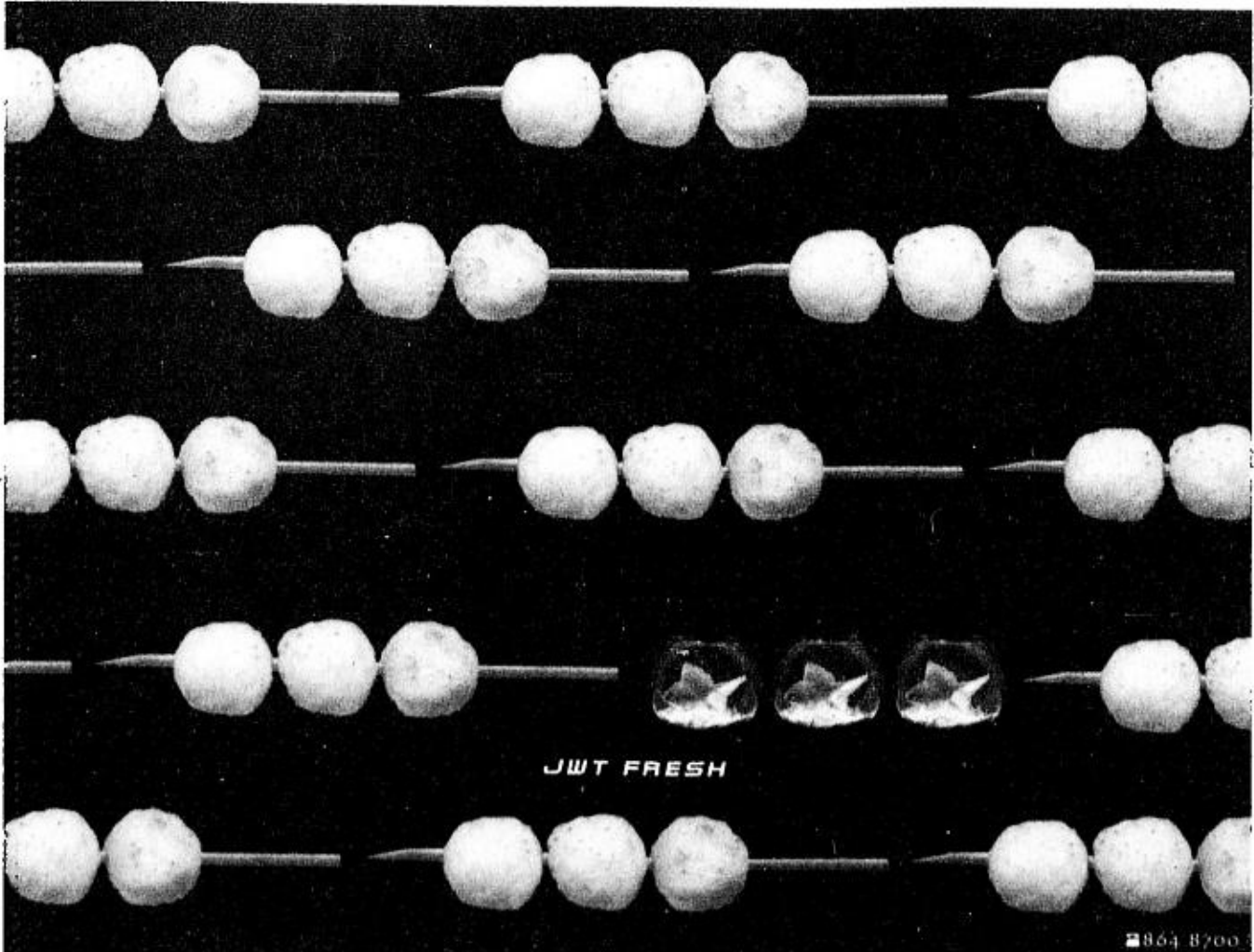
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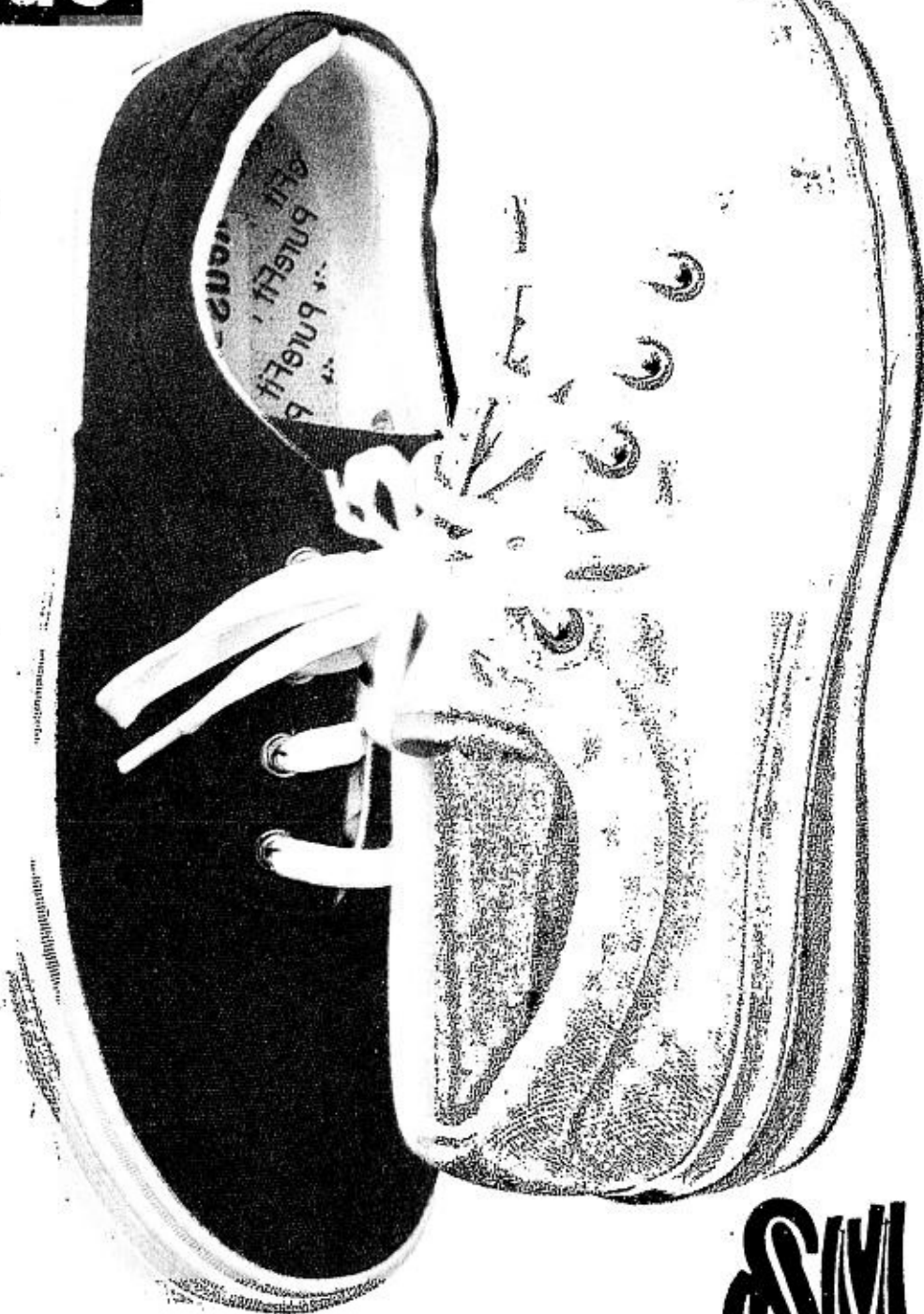
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Assaulted by a million things to worry about, people can still afford to talk, sing, and text about a few good commercials. Among them, a woman answering the call of nature in an Amorsolo-esque rice field (Joy Pop-Up), a girl pouring beer on a man's pants (Red Horse), men meditating upon burgers (Carl's Jr.), and a man drying his newly-bathed body with toilet paper (Joy Bathroom Tissue)—all by the communications agency J. Walter Thompson Manila.

JWT's commercials consistently earn the highest scores in consumer tests and deliver sales beyond forecasts. They achieve that by putting together solid consumer insights, serious product offerings, and creativity that disturbs all equilibrium. Because people know what they need, they are numbed by reminders

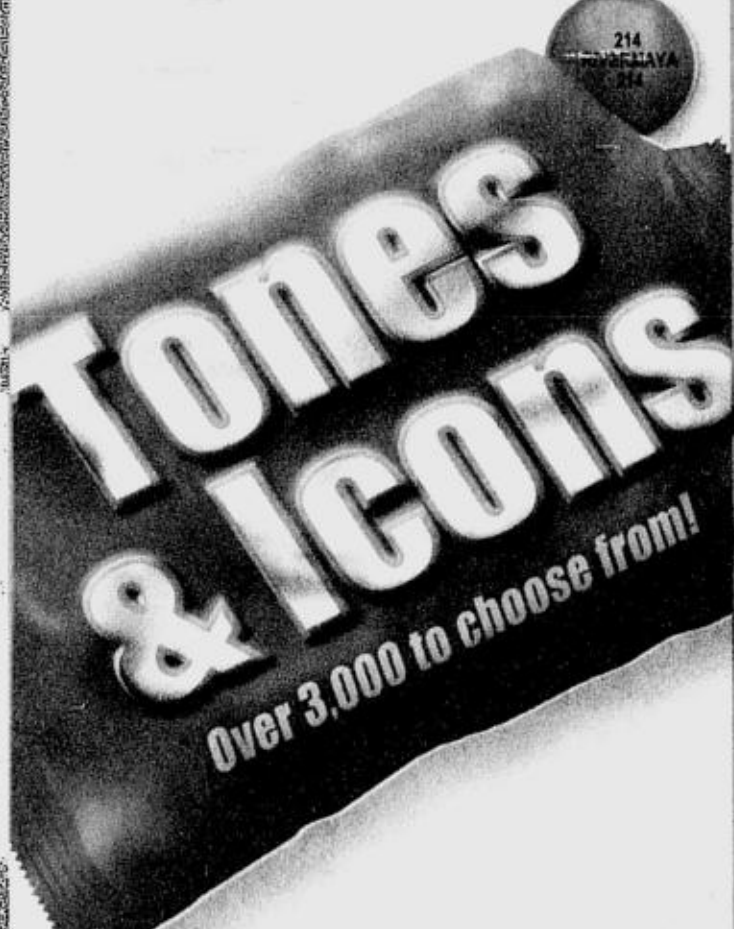
they've heard countless times before. That's why JWT wants them to "look at old things with new eyes" or "see new things as truly never-before."

Freshness and inventiveness in every aspect of communications is the centerpiece in the new vision of JWT, a pioneer agency that continues to set records. Their vision, which celebrates its first anniversary this month, is called *Magical Journeys*. They describe it as a "journey without a finish line," so that past discoveries and achievements serve as inspiration and not as comfort zones.

One year after the vision's launch, the agency's refreshed marketing communications has won them nine new business pitches, received the highest marks from clients, shared top honors in the national creative competition, and created new business divisions.

Above all, the agency's own invigorated staff has given it high ratings. In a recent survey, the employees stated that they were "proud to be in JWT."

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Tones: Nokia 3210, 3310, 3330, 6110, 6150, 6210, 6250, 7110, 8210, 8810, 8850 & 8890



Dude, where's my crown?

BY TAMMY DAVID
2bU! Correspondent

"WHAT'S up with these 'diaries'?" I asked my friend when I first saw the trailer of Disney's "The Princess Diaries." This was during the "Bridget Jones" season in which almost every chick I knew got inspired to start a diary with the unique intro of "180 pounds, cigarettes: 2 sex: none..."

But in this movie, our American heroine Mia Thermopolis, played by the very beautiful 18-year-old Anne Hathaway, is not fat (she's scrawny in the first part then oddly becomes fully developed later); she is in high school and later fills on her diary. You have probably heard the not-so-good reviews, so pardon me, but yes this is a typical GP (General Patronage) movie.

The movie, directed by Gary Marshall (the director of "Pretty Woman" or the fairy godfather of Julia Roberts) is based on the young-adult novel by Meg Cabot. I was able to buy a copy at Powerbooks so I was able to read the book before watching the movie.

The novel

The book is far more interesting than the movie. Instead of San Francisco, the setting is New York and Mia's father, the Prince of Genovia, is still alive (but has prostate cancer) and her grandmother, the queen, is a total nagger and gives the Princess lessons at the Plaza Hotel. This is more realistic. The book's format follows "The Diary of Anne Frank" and "Bridget Jones's Diary" so the book really lives up to its name, compared to the movie, where the diary only pops up in the climax.

The movie

At last, my Mary Poppins is here. But this time Dame Julie Andrews plays Mia's regal grandmother, Queen Clarisse Renaldi of the fictional European principality of Genovia (think



PRINCESS Amelia of Genovia (Anne Hathaway) isn't spared by the paparazzi.

'The Princess Diaries' is a simple Sunday TV movie, but thanks to the very great cast headed by Julie Andrews, this GP movie isn't bad after all



MIA Thermopolis (Anne Hathaway) and her best friend, cable show host Lily (Heather Matarazzo)

Monaco). Set in the Bay area, the ugly duckling Mia gets bad news from her grandmother that since her father the crown Prince has died and she's the sole heiress, she'll soon be crowned Princess of Genovia (bad news huh?). She declines the offer, but thinks it over until the annual ball where either she will be formally presented as a royalty or the crown will be passed on to a baron.

In this whole predictable movie there are wacky royalty lessons given by her grandma and her bodyguard (played by movie veteran Hector Elizondo). There are the usual embarrassing moments and the major makeover (pluck the eyebrows, straighten the hair and lose the glasses), which turns her to a swan. There are also the typical American high school movie scenes.

Cast

The supporting cast is wonderful. Topping the list is pop singer Mandy Moore who plays Lana. Mia's nemesis and a typical campus prick (blonde hair, bad attitude and two clones with her all the time). Mandy does a really good job in this movie. Others include Heather Matarazzo as Mia's politically and socially aware best friend Lily; Erik Von Detten as Mia's crush and Lana's Daniel Johns-lookalike boyfriend; and Robert Schwartzman as Lily's brother and Mia's admirer (and my personal crush).

As an 18-year-old who still has a hangover from "Enemy at the Gates," I think this movie is fine. I'll probably watch it again in a couple of years when I have it in my white Disney video case, but not anytime soon. This is a classic for 12-year-olds. Bopper chicks will dig it because of the guys and the pop music scoring. Guys will dig it because of the girls (Mandy Moore in a cheerleading outfit and Anne Hathaway struggling to wear her stockings), but the whole family will definitely have a good laugh, a light one at least. And of course, don't forget about the Disney values. Which reminds me, I have to look for my "Pete's Dragon" tape.

The book is available at Powerbooks at P245. The movie is released through Columbia Pictures.

E-mail the author at chris_trent_thom@lycos.com

Great Meal Treats!

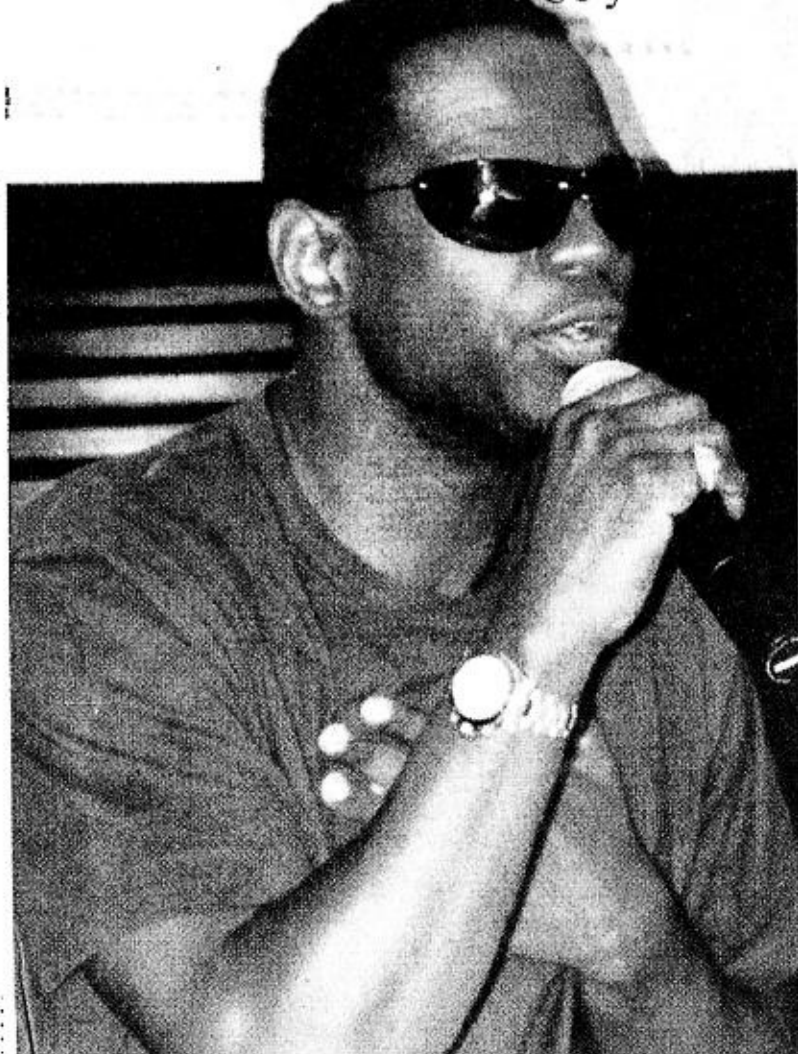
FREE! P49 OREO for every promo meal	SIZZLING PLATE Chorizo w/ egg, Mixed Vegetables, Java Rice	WEI-CHUAN FOODS Sweet & Sour Meatballs, Pancit Canton, Plain Rice, Soup
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sandosenang halo!! sandosenang sarap!! Special halo-Halo, Sago Gulaman, Siopao	PINOY TOPPING Pork Chop, Arroz Ala Cubana, Egg, Rice, Soup		

FREE! P89 RITZ for every promo meal	the Aristocrat Boneless Chicken BBQ, Achara & Sauce, Java Rice, Soup, 12 oz. Ice Tea/Pineapple Juice	KAMAY KANAN Kare-kare, Lumpiang Shanghai, Plain Rice
Green Leaf Crispy chicken beef brisket, pancit canton, rice & soup	SHOKUJI 3 pcs. Tempura, Plain Rice, Misou Soup	Shin Chia Beef Stew, Crispy Chicken, Rice
TAPSI Plus Tapsilog, Extra Egg Soup	HEN LIN MAMI DIMSUM HOUSE Beef mami Meal, Siomai, 16 oz. Softdrink	

PROMO RUNS JULY 20 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2001

Per DTI-NOR Permit No. 2694, Series of 2000



BRIAN McKnight

Getting to know a knight and superhero

BY TAMMY DAVID AND CHERYL TIU
2BU! Correspondents

A COUPLE of weeks ago, Brian McKnight came to promote his nth album (6th, to be exact), "Superhero," doing mall tours and appearing in several local talk shows. On Sept. 13, hours before his jam-packed Hard Rock Café show, we had the opportunity to ask questions from the "superhero" himself at a press conference, thanks to Tony Molina of MCA.

To tell the truth, the only thing we knew about this guy was that he was behind 99 percent of our prom songs. We did a last-minute research and frantically texted our friends to prepare for the presscon.

With the help of Brit model, 21-year-old Luke Mucklin, who became our honorary correspondent for the day, we were able to keep up with the other members of the press... and even got to hang out backstage with the King of R&B himself. He wasn't really Bono Vox, but he was a superstar in his own right. We had butterflies in our stomachs, especially since he was incredibly witty and charming.

Brian McKnight was born on June 5, 1969 in

GETTING/p. E2

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Per DTI-NCR Permit # 3098 Series of 2001

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zed Hot Picks!

Take your pick from this week's freshest, choicest add-ons from September 18 to 24 for SMART Gold, SMART Buddy, and Talk 'N Text subscribers. Download them today and get a chance to win prizes from Get zed! Get loaded! To register, type in **JOIN GETZ <name>/<address>** and send to 288. Check out this space next week for more ring tones, picture messages and logos from the zed Hot Picks.

new ring tones

TITLE	ARTIST	KEYWORD
Getting Better	Beatles	TONE GETTINGBETTER
Good Day Sunshine	Beatles	TONE GUDDAYSUN
Helter Skelter	Beatles	TONE HELTER
I Am the Walrus	Beatles	TONE IAMWALRUS
I Should Have Known Better	Beatles	TONE ISHLDHAVE
Lady Madonna	Beatles	TONE LADYMAD
Sexy Sadie	Beatles	TONE SEXYSAD
Tax Man	Beatles	TONE TAXMAN
Michelle	Beatles	TONE MICHELLE
Yesterday	Beatles	TONE YESTERDAY

top ten logos

- LOGO BOOP
- LOGO DAVE
- LOGO EUPHONY
- LOGO T1
- LOGO HAPPY
- LOGO THISIDEUP
- LOGO TOES
- LOGO TURTLE
- LOGO WASH
- LOGO PENGUINS

new logos

- LOGO BUBBLES
- LOGO CUTE2
- LOGO COOLBEAR
- LOGO FACETACE
- LOGO LONGEARS
- LOGO LOVE
- LOGO SADBEAR
- LOGO SLEEPY
- LOGO SNOWFLAKE
- LOGO SNOWFLAKE

new picture messages

PIK BIGBAT	PIK LOVEKEY
PIK KICK	PIK SUPPLIES
PIK PUPPET	PIK SWEETTHING
PIK PUPPET	PIK SWEETTHING
PIK PUPPET	PIK SWEETTHING
PIK PUPPET	PIK SWEETTHING
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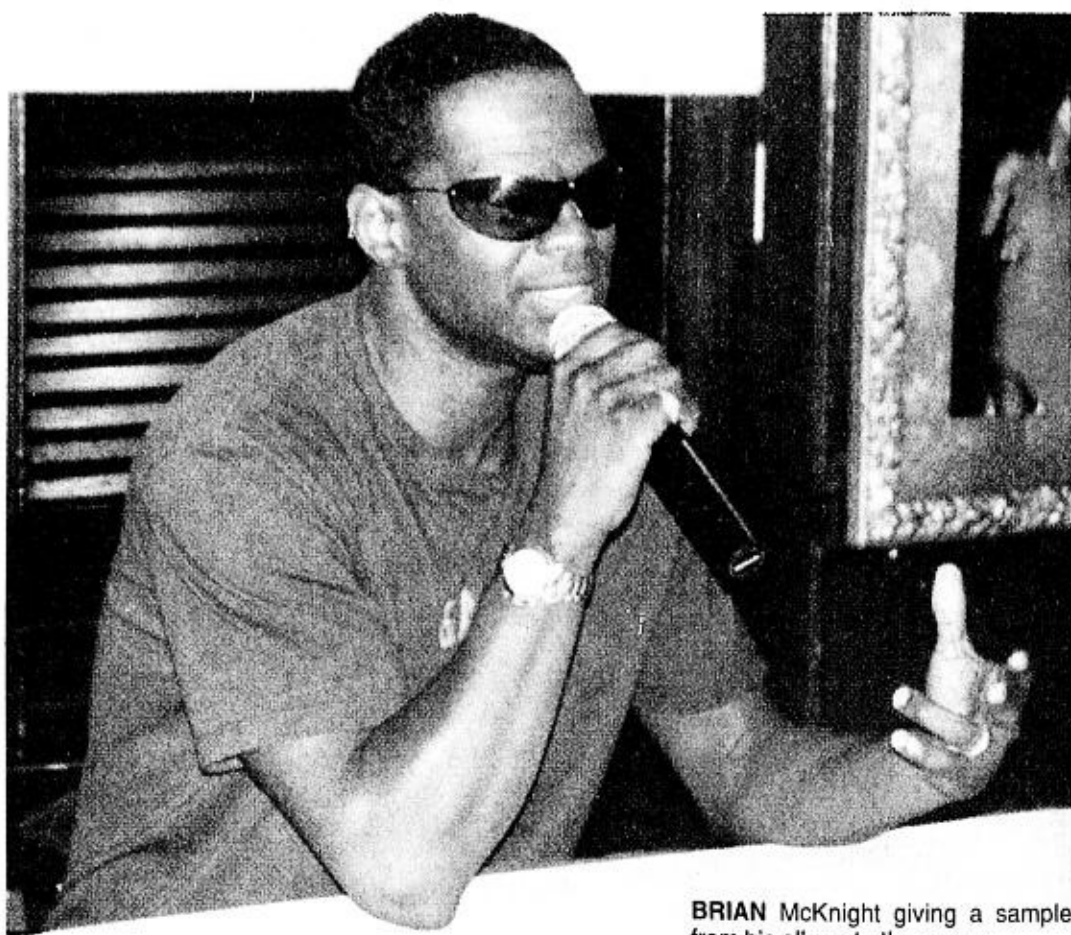
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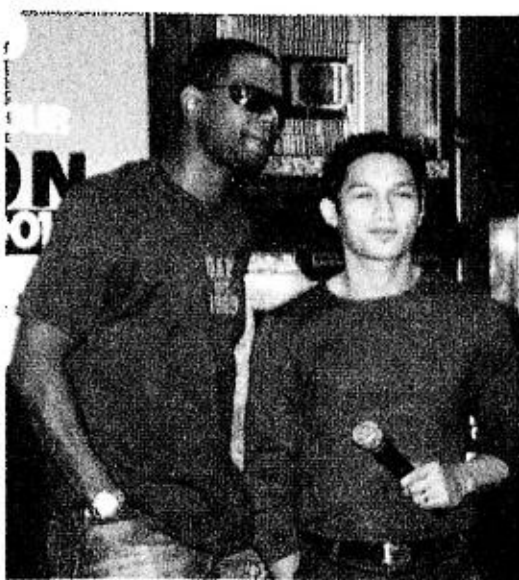
www.zed.com

Getting to know a knight and superhero



BRIAN McKnight giving a sample from his album to the press

It was almost like two pigeon-brained commoners being asked to dine with the royals when these two rock fans were invited to a conference with the King of R&B



UP and coming singer Matik meets inspiration and idol Brian McKnight

(From page E1)

Buffalo, New York. At the young age of 4, he started using his vocal chords to make music. Later, as a teenager, he played the jazz piano and the trumpet. The three major influences in his life are Stevie Wonder, jazz and his older brother Claude's success with the R&B group Take 6.

Everything seemed to fall into place for the famed singer-songwriter-producer-etc., currently based in L.A. He is the reason we listened to "One Last Cry," "Anytime," "Back at One" and "6, 8, 12" (among others) every time they were played on local radio stations and on our CD. This time around we saw a different side of his music, starting with his new single, "Love of My Life."

We were wondering why you collaborated with Justin Timberlake from 'N Sync. Why did you choose Justin when JC is known to be more into R&B stuff?

Hmm... You know what, the interesting part about that situation... I mean, I could have used the whole group but they've done things collectively as a group on other records. They did a song with Joe and some other thing with Gloria Estefan. For me, Justin and I... Our relationship is closer than the other guys in the group. And we're friends and we were just really kickin' around... We had written a couple of things together, things that didn't necessarily make the record, and I produced a song on their "Celebrity" album. He agreed to sing with me on my album. It's really nothing more than a couple of friends getting together and making a song, and I think you can tell that when you hear us sing together, when you see us interact together, it's genuine friendship there. A lot of people tend to think that, "Ooh, 'N Sync's hot. He probably put them on the record to capitalize," and it's really not that. I don't think they would have done it with me if it was that way. So it was just a couple of friends getting together and making some music.

What brings you back to the Philippines?

I have a new album and, beyond that, whether anybody buys the new record or not, I had to come back to say thank you for what's happened in the last year with "Back at 1." I really wanted to come back to the people that supported me and I had three weeks right now to do that. So I went to Korea, I'm in the Philippines now and I'm going to Taiwan this weekend and then on to Hong Kong next week.

You're a native of New York, right? We were wondering what you felt about being away from home with everything that is going on, especially promoting an album, which should be a really happy time for you.

It really should be, and five days ago it was all



THE SUPERHERO: chilling out backstage before the show

about my records and my music and sort of promoting myself. Now, it is almost like none of this is that important with everything that is going on at home. I've been trying to get back home to my family but now I couldn't even get home even if I wanted to. The show must go on. My mind and my heart are at home with the families and friends of the victims and other people in this tragedy.

We also learned that:

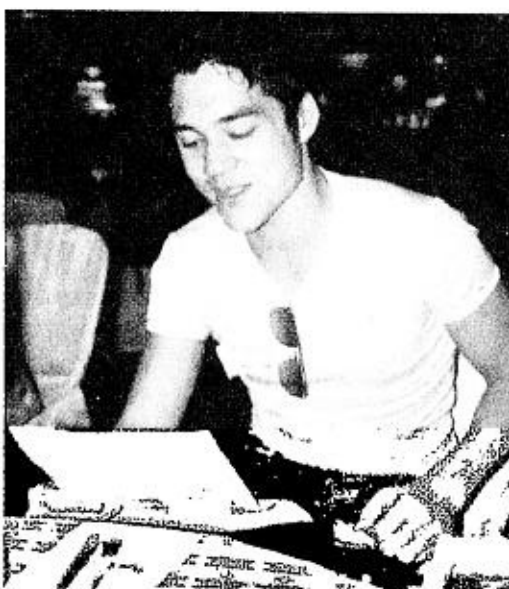
- "Superhero" is different from McKnight's previous albums because here he wanted to show his crazy, silly side.

- He is pretty spoiled and gets everything he wants. But if there is one thing he would want to happen it is for the rest of the world to be closer, especially at Christmas time.

- He coached his sons' (BJ and Nico are turning 12 and 9, respectively) basketball team over the summer, and plays the game with them every day.

- To him, a virtue of a superhero is being able to say a nice little something to anyone that can help change his/her outlook on today and tomorrow (especially if the person has had a bad day).

- His goal is to write, direct, produce, score and star in his own film.



PINOY-BRIT model turned correspondent for a day Luke Mucklin tries to do last minute research.

On hair dye, beauty salons and help for stretch marks

I HAVE white hair that I dye faithfully every three weeks as the roots show up. Now my hair is so dry and damaged due to 25 years of color abuse. This costs me so much as well and my parlor bill is denting my budget. Can you recommend a cheaper parlor that does a good job but is reasonable. My budget is P450. Here's hoping.

JANE



Kinny Salas

The cheapest way I know is to dye your hair yourself. A cheaper salon will, of course, use cheap dyes that damage your hair and those who use good quality ones are expensive—P700, if you're lucky. With your budget, you can buy good quality hair dyes and still have money left. Look for dyes with built-in conditioners like Revlon Color-silk, Nateur and L'Oréal Excellence for permanent color. If you want less da-

mage risk try those semipermanent rinses. These are enough to cover gray hair and change your natural color by a few shades. These are rinsed in after you shampoo then rinsed out after prescribed time. There is little to no ammonia so the color fades after each shampoo. By the time your roots show the color would have disappeared and you could try a different shade without messing up the color. No damage done to the strands, too.

I HAVE been away for some time and it seems my two beauty salons have disappeared. People told me they are still around but moved somewhere. Do you know where Basement and Propaganda are now? Can I have the numbers, please?

CARA

They are both still in Makati. Basement Salon has moved to Power Plant in Rockwell at the second floor right above Page One Bookstore. Their telephone numbers are now 899-6666 and 898-2222. All I know about Propaganda is that they are in the Greenbelt Mall. I am not sure of the floor and I don't have the number, but it's a fairly small place and would be easy to find.

A finding: Real help for stretch marks. (found in Glamour Magazine)

Tretinoin, the active ingredient in anti-acne and anti-wrinkle cream Retin-A, seems

to improve the appearance of stretch marks due to pregnancy. In a University of Michigan study, 10 people with stretch marks similar in size and location applied Tretinoin cream daily for six months. Their stretch marks shrank 14 percent lengthwise and 8 percent in width. The stretch marks of the other group that applied regular cream grew an average of 10 percent in length and 24 percent in width during the same period. In the study, Tretinoin worked best on stretch marks when they were pink to violet in color. In other studies, Tretinoin was applied to older silvery colored S.M. but the results were barely obvious.

Note: Tretinoin has not been tested on pregnant and nursing mothers, so refrain from using it under these conditions.

For any questions, or products you want to road-test, write to Makeover 911, PDI Lifestyle or fax 897-4805

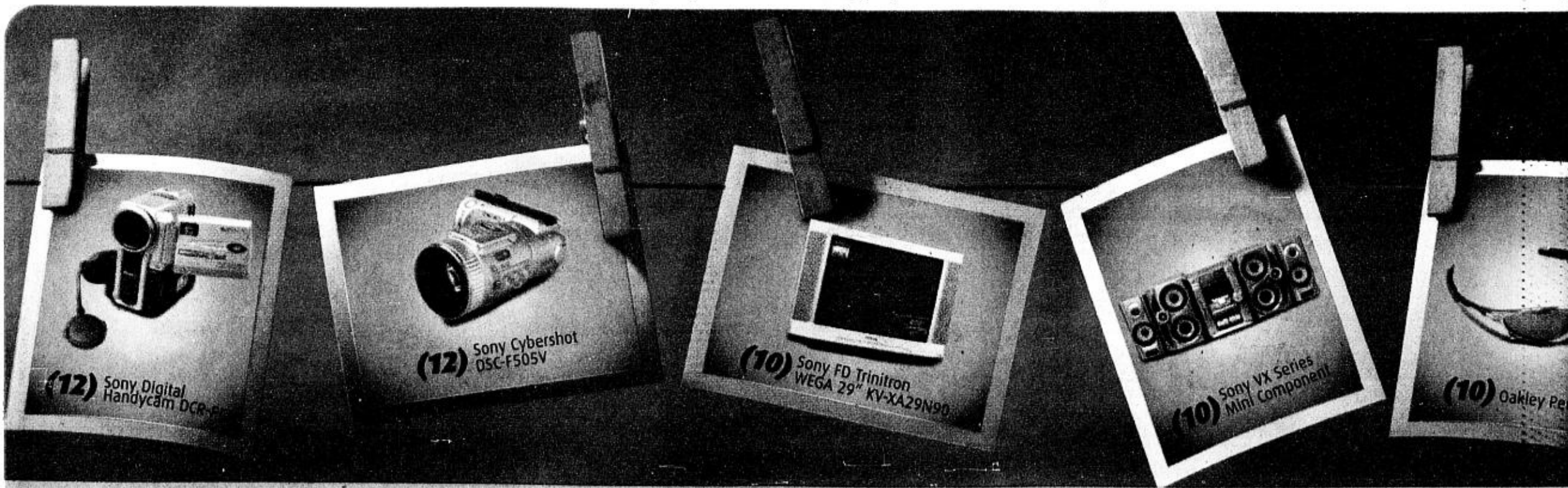
Two-night concert of the Corrs

YES, avid Corrs fans will now get a chance to have not only one but two nights with their favorite band as the Corrs go live on Sept. 29 and 30 at the Araneta Coliseum at 8 p.m.

Many were disappointed when their previously scheduled February concert here got cancelled due to lead singer Andrea's ear ailment, but those same fans are now jumping up and down with joy at the prospect of finally seeing their idols up close. Currently on a world tour, the Corrs are promoting their latest platinum-selling album, "In Blue," from which the group scored several chart-busting hits like "Breathless," "Give Me a Reason," "One Night" and the latest, "All the Love in the World," also featured in the original movie soundtrack of "America's Sweethearts."

The Corrs history is one fairy tale in the world of music. Starting out in 1994, they wowed the world with their first album, "Forgiven Not Forgotten," followed by "Talk on Corners," which spawned well-known hits like "Dreams," "MTV Unplugged" album in response to the public's clamor for a new album.

"The Corrs Live in Manila" is brought to you by Warner Music Phils. with the INQUIRER's 2bU!



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Eminem and gang live up to their naughty rep

Devil's Night
D-12
Interscope Records/MCA Universal

Free All Angels
Ash
Infectious Records/Sony Music

BY MAUI V. REYES

HERE'S a good way to sneak in those profanity-filled songs with hard-hitting lyrics about drugs and alcohol—do a fun-loving video, with a swirly-retro feel and colorful mountains, and put Eminem in all his "cute" glory to sing about purple hills. If you join Em and his army (who can recognize "good" music from bad), you'd be rolling down some Technicolor hills yourself.

REVIEWS

Known as "that band Eminem's in," D-12 is composed of six members and their alter-egos... Marshall Mathers (Slim Shady/Eminem), Denaun (Kon Artis), Big Proof (Dirty Harry), Swift (Swiftly McVeigh), Kuniva (Rodell Beene), Bizarre (Peter S. Bizarre), thus the name, Dirty Dozen (D-12... get it?). No stranger to the hip-hop world of music, each member has already built up his resumé locally before jumping into the Billboard pool. Bizarre released his solo LP, "Attack of the Weirdos" back in 1997, and Kon Artis helped Eminem release his first independent album, "Infinite." And now, with their friend shifting from white-rap trash to white-rap controversial artist, they're riding on that slick corvette to stardom.

"Devil's Night," named after Halloween night in Detroit when teens ran amok on the streets, has 18 "I hate pop music, your parents, my parents, my life and the world in general" tracks, filled with hoes, b-----s, f---g and sexual references. That "Parental Advisory" sticker is there for a reason—it is time for Eminem's



RIDE WITH THE DEVIL. D-12's debut album

group to "shine." After all, it is not fair that only Em gets to cuss about being called a bad influence (you can shake your heads in shame now).

The fact is, no matter how many times you play the album, you can't quite establish the band's individuality. It's Eminem all over, from the "Executive Producer: Eminem" credit at the back, to every single track on the album. Case in point: the first thing you'll hear is "Another Public Service Announcement." Hmm... sounds familiar?

"Pistol Pistol," the third cut, has Eminem declaring that he's got "too many people on my hate list," and starts tripping on Christina Aguilera again. He puts shock value in "Ain't Nuttin' But Music," with questions like: Exactly what is Britney Spears' bra size? Why does Britney go for Justin when Em's got his own bling-bling? He has an entire verse on Britney and Justin's fictional (or is it?) sexual exploits and

Christina's fantasies, then jumps into a very catchy chorus ("What's going on in the world today? Let it go, let it flow, let the good times roll!").

In "Fight Music," Em makes his own statement about parenting. See, here's one thing adults don't see. Eminem is actually good for the kids. In fact,

his music soothes children whose parents are too lazy to care for them. Of course, he says all this right after he pronounces his love for "Purple Hills," after climbing mushrooms and using downers as

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Eminem and gang live up to their naughty rep

(From page E3)

chasers for uppers.

Although full of skits (four in all) and oozing with Eminem's hate for pop and his relatives, the other D-12 band members can take a little credit. The

album (critics call it Eminem's third) is tastefully produced with the help of Dr. Dre's funk and his bandmates' slur. Eminem provides the wit and catchy rhythm; the other members of the band slow down the album a notch. We have to admit the other five try too much too

for shock value, but we will forgive them.

If you like Eminem music, pick up this album. It has all the essential Eminem elements you crave for—profanity, psychotic personalities ("American Psycho"), murdering pop stars ("Ain't Nuttin' But Music"), sexual

exploits and the extended middle finger for every critic to suck on ("S--t Can Happen," "That's How...").

But then again, as the "Public Service Announcement" says, "If you get offended by words like b---h, ho, sissy, faggot, homo, lesbian, fudge packer, c--



D-12. Another excuse for Eminem to cuss about the world.

t eater—all the s--t like that, then you should turn this off right now." Better pop in your Britney CD before you burst into tears, my dear teenies.

Ash has been busy. Maybe from indulging in booze (well, they are finally of legal age to drink). Or maybe from changing record companies three times in their three-album career in between setting fire to 300 Westlife singles. "Free All Angels," the band's fourth studio album, has finally arrived after a long wait (they did cK Calvin Klein ads during the hiatus). And we are glad to report that Ash has finally grown up.

Rockers since their high school days, Irish boys Tim Wheeler, Charlotte Hatherley, Rick Murray and Mark Hamilton came up with 13 new tracks. They have come a long way from their "Kung-Fu" days aside from getting new haircuts.

If "1977" was an introduction to Ash's juvenile pop sound and adolescent lyrics, their second album (not counting the indie release, "Trailer"), "Nu-Clear Sounds" would be mid-adolescent crisis. Think of Hanson's voices getting lower. The sad thing is, Tim's gift for writing seems to have taken the road to cheesiness—how does "Candy/Sweetest remedy" sound to you?

The first single, "Shining Light," has that monotonous melody you can't get sick of. Wheeler gives us another taste of his mushy side ("You have always been a thorn in the side/but to me, you're a shining light/I'd shed blood for you"), and triggers a flashback of "Lost In You" with "Someday," the third single ("Someday/We'll leave this life/Far behind/And fade in time"). The second single, "Burn Baby Burn," is upbeat and has that signature Ash sound.



ASH'S fourth album

The album still has that infectious flavor, the kind that stays with you even after it ends.

Wheeler remains a melodramatic musician, who still cannot accurately portray love in his songs. He does, however, step into a whole new territory compared to the previous Ash songs like "Submission" ("Thinking of one wish/I wanna taste your skin/Wanna see you undress/Wanna see you shake your thing").

Wheeler's not the only one who has had a growth spurt. Ash's music has matured. The group is experimenting with different sounds, venturing into the world of violins and who knows what else. "Candy" is opened by an orchestra that reappears "There's a Star." Ash maintains its pop roots in tracks like "Cherry Bomb" and "Nicole," producing hooks and melodies reminiscent of their air-guitar years.

After seven years on the road performing, promoting, dissing other bands and getting drunk, the band has learned one thing: your peers (Westlife) might not know you exist, but at least your music progresses. And even though the group gets old, we hope Tim Wheeler doesn't lose his mushy side.

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 - Try to avoid stress.

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